

The Context of Discipleship

It was common, both in the Greek culture and the Jewish culture of Jesus' day, for a prominent rabbi or philosopher to attract students. Their teaching venue was not necessarily a classroom or an auditorium. Most were traveling instructors whose disciples simply followed them through the normal course of life.

That is the kind of ministry Jesus maintained with His followers. He was an itinerant teacher. He simply went from place to place, and as He taught, He attracted people who followed His movements and listened to His teaching.

We get a picture of this in Luke 6:1, "Now it happened that He was passing through some grain fields on a Sabbath; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain." They were walking with Him, following Him from place to place as He taught, gleaning grain for food as they walked. For the apostles, ordinary life was the context of discipleship.

It's still the same for us today. Following Christ isn't rooted in spectacular events, juiced-up conferences, or continual mountaintop experiences. It's found in loving Him, obeying Him, thanking Him, and glorifying Him in the most mundane daily details of life. The apostle Paul said, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

For the true disciple of Jesus Christ, every moment is packed with eternal significance, because all of life – even the smallest of details – is lived in His presence. Don't despise the routine of life, but find in the routine the platform on which you develop deep intimacy with the God of the universe who ordains each of your days.

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