



The Disciple: Focus  
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*What is a disciple of Jesus?*

*How would you recognize one? What do you look for?*

*February 13<sup>th</sup> – A Disciple is to be known by their spiritual fruit. This fruit is grown and shown in our relationships.*

*February 20<sup>th</sup> - A Disciple is to be known by their faith. This faith is grown and shown in our responses to our circumstances.*

*February 27<sup>th</sup> – A Disciple is to be known by their focus on the kingdom of God. This focus is grown and shown in what we value.*

Luke 12:15-34

“Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. <sup>17</sup> He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. <sup>19</sup> And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ <sup>20</sup> “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ <sup>21</sup> “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

<sup>22</sup> Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! <sup>25</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? <sup>26</sup> And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?

<sup>27</sup> “Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>28</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>29</sup> “And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. <sup>30</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. <sup>31</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. <sup>32</sup> “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

<sup>33</sup> “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. <sup>34</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Luke 12:15-34 NLT

<sup>28</sup> “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. <sup>30</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid;

Matthew 10:28-31 NLT

### **Focus: Living with an awareness of eternity**

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.” Colossians 3:1-2

*“Live life with a sense of responsibility, not as those who don’t know the meaning of life, but as those who do.” Ephesians. 5:15*

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

Mark 8:34-47 NIV

### **Small Group Questions for discussion**

Why does Jesus say the farmer was foolish for building bigger barns?

Is it possible to live a life without worrying?

If someone was to look at how you invest your time and money, what would they say you value most? Where is your heart? What captures your attention?

What would it look like for you to put the Kingdom of God first in your life?

What would change if you lived for eternity?