



A Communication Challenge

- We communicate from a Western context
- Across many centuries
- Through unfamiliar religious traditions
- From an entirely different culture
- In a different language



East vs. West

If you look at the Bible from a “western” perspective, you miss much of the fullness that comes with an “eastern” perspective.



The Great Commission

(19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
(20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20



What is a Disciple?

In Greek it is the word “*Mathētēs*” describes a person who learns from another by instruction, whether formal or informal. *Disciple-ship* includes the idea of one who intentionally learns by asking, observing and doing. A “mathētēs” describes an adherent of a teacher.



What is a Rabbi?

In the Greek it is the word "*rhabbi*" meaning *my master, my teacher* (pronounced "hrab-bee") (it literally means "*great in number*," a teacher-scholar recognized by the Jewish public for accumulating a great number of Bible-facts, i.e. respected for his accumulation of knowledge.)



Rabbi-Disciple Relationship

- A rabbi was considered to be like a father to his disciples.
- Jesus' insistence that his disciples leave everything to follow him would not have been considered extreme in his culture.
- We often focus on sharing information, not on living like Jesus in front of others - He modeled the behavior.
- While it is important to teach truth, Jesus' method of discipleship is much more than that.
- He lived with disciples to show them how to be like him.



Rabbi-Disciple Relationship

- A disciple was expected to leave his family and job to join the rabbi in his austere lifestyle.
- Disciples would live with the rabbi twenty-four hours a day, walking from town to town, teaching, working, eating, and studying.
- They would discuss the Scriptures and apply them to their lives.
- They were also the rabbi's servants, submitting to his authority while they served his needs.
- They went out and made disciples, teaching and doing their best to show others by their own example.



Rabbi-Disciple Relationship

To follow a rabbi meant something other than sitting in a classroom and absorbing his lectures. Rather, it involved a literal kind of following...



A Different Learning Style

Learning wasn't so much about retaining data as it was about gaining essential wisdom for living... This was how rabbis trained their disciples.



Discipline ≠ Discipleship

The overall goal of discipleship is not simply to grow in self-discipline, but to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.



Discipling by Example

A Rabbi was to Model How to Live...

You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one.

John 13:13-15



Information vs. Transformation

Jesus lived transparently in front of his disciples to teach them how to live. They, in turn, lived transparently before others, humbly teaching them the way of Christ.



Haver, Haverah

A HAYER (plural, haverim) is a male student who partners with another student to enhance learning. Together, haverim study and discuss the religious texts. A female study partner is a HAYERAH (plural, haverot).



Other Biblical Examples

- Moses
- Elijah, Elisha
- John the Baptist
- Apostle Paul
- The Kings of Israel
- Scribes
- Pharisees



Get Involved!

- Legacy Builders Adult Sunday School, Sundays, 9:30-10:30, Fitness Center
- MasterLife Foundations Discipleship Class, Tuesdays, 7PM-8:30P (In-Person & Hybrid)
- WOW Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Mondays, Resumes August 2023
- Noble Warriors Men's Bible Study, Every Tuesday at 7PM, via Zoom
- Summer Bible Series '23, Wednesdays, June 7th – 28th & July 12th & 19th
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 7:00PM
- Choir, Greeters, Outreach, Mercy Seed, et.al

