

Discipleship Defined



The Mission

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The Mission

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations...

The Description - #1

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations....

The Description - #1

“In other words, the participle could be read, “as you are going.” It is just assumed that we would be going to the lost and telling them about the Savior.”

–Discipleship Today

The Description - #1

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...

The Description - #2

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them...

- A One-Time Act
- A Responsive Act
- An Identifying Act

The Description - #2

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the **name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...**”

The Description - #3

“The verb “make disciples” also commands a kind of evangelism that does not stop after someone makes a profession of faith.”

(New American Commentary, 431)

The Description - #3

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them...”

The Description - #3

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to **observe all that I commanded you...**”

Discipleship Defined

“Fewer than 5% of churches in the US have a reproducing disciple-making culture...

...there is not a clear, compelling and commonly understood set of basic definitions for terms such as *discipleship, disciple, and disciple making.*”

National Study on Disciple Making in USA Churches



Discipleship Defined

- Verb – 4 Times
- Noun – 260+ Times

Discipleship Defined

“That the meaning of the word disciple is never explained in the NT indicates that the early readers understood it in relation to contemporary rabbinic or Greek practices.”

- *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, 226

3 Advantages

- Greek Disciples
- Jewish Disciples
- Jesus' Disciples



Greek Disciples



Greek Disciples

“Because books were not readily available and oral instruction was normative, a student (disciple) virtually lived alongside his teacher.”

- Andy Burggraff

“Five hundred years before Jesus was born, a disciple was one who committed his all to follow a master teacher. The meaning remained the same until the time of Jesus, providing our first major clue about what Jesus meant when he told his disciples to “make disciples.”” - *The Complete Book of Discipleship*, 54



Greek Disciples Summarized

- Common Practice
- Intellectual Study + Fellowship
- The Words and the Ways

Jewish Disciples

More popular than even the days of the Greeks.

Jewish Disciples


“A young disciple “learned his teacher’s stories, his life habits, how to keep the Sabbath his way, and his interpretations of the Torah. And when a disciple learned everything his teacher knew, he then taught his own disciples.” - *The Complete Book of Discipleship*, 63.

Jewish Disciples in New Testament

- Pharisees as Disciples of Moses (x1)
- Disciples of Pharisees (x2)
- Disciples of John the Baptist (x12)
 - Taught them Prayer (Luke 11:1)
 - Taught them Fasting (Mark 2:18)

Jesus' Disciples

- Called First Disciples in Wilderness (John 1:37)
- Present for:
 - First Miracle (John 2:2),
 - Last Supper (John 13:5)
 - Crucifixion (John 19:27)
 - Resurrection (John 20:19)
 - Ascension (Acts 1:9)



“Throughout His ministry Jesus Christ was occupied with making disciples. His ministry was devoted to teaching and training men that these men might be His disciples.”

- Pentecost, *Design for Discipleship*, 9

“Discipleship to Jesus continued to bear surface similarity to other forms of discipleship within Judaism and the Greco-Roman world, but it was strikingly unique because of one primary issue: Jesus Messiah was a unique Master, and discipleship to him would therefore be unique.”

- *Unique Discipleship to a Unique Master, 51*

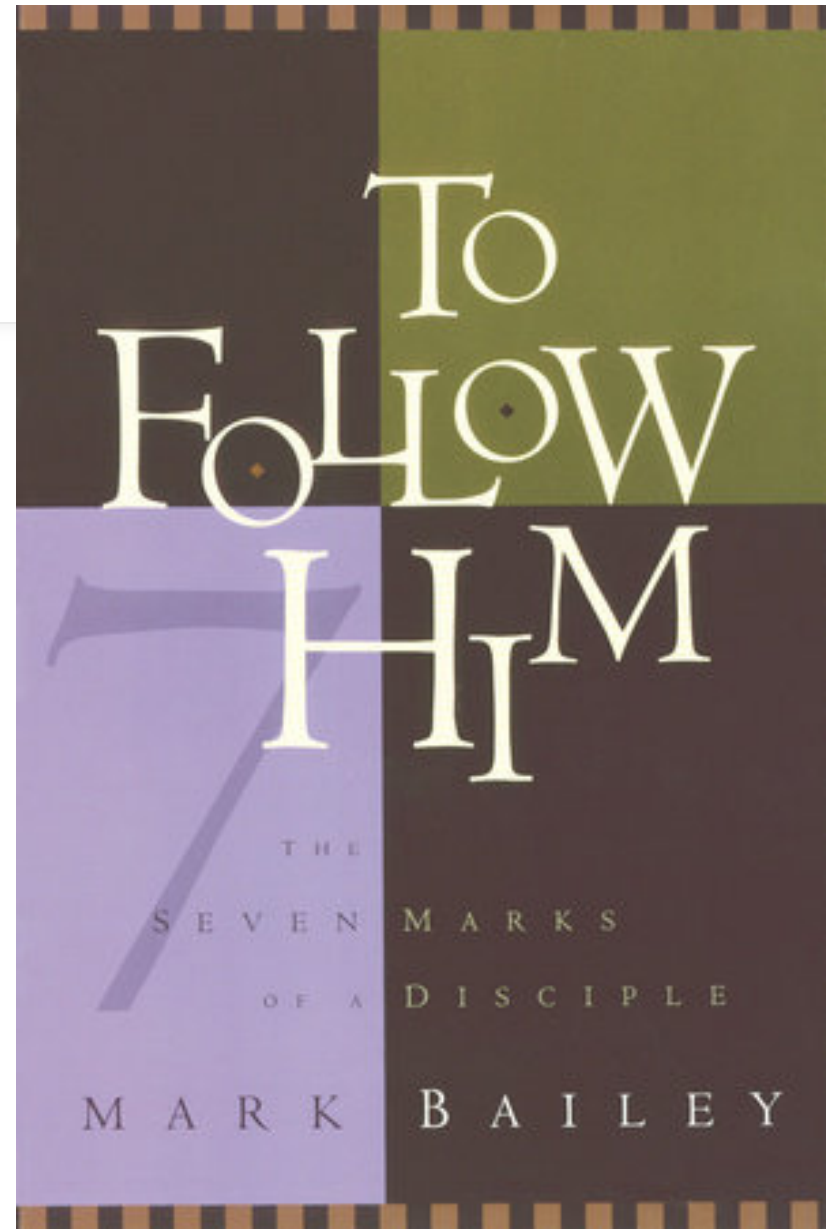
False Disciples

- John 6:66 – *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*
- John 12:4 – *one of His disciples who was intending to betray Him.*

True Disciples

- Genuinely Committed
- In Process
- John 19:38 - *Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews*

True Disciples



Disciple Defined


Disciple – *“A born-again believer who desires to learn what the Bible teaches, seeks to obey God’s instruction, is committed to following Christ’s example, and teaches the truths of Scripture to others.”* – Andy Burggraff (18)

Discipleship Defined

Discipleship - The life-long process of becoming conformed to the image of Christ. Discipleship occurs as one learns the teachings of Scripture, conforms their beliefs to what God says, and lives out what God commands in their daily life in fellowship.

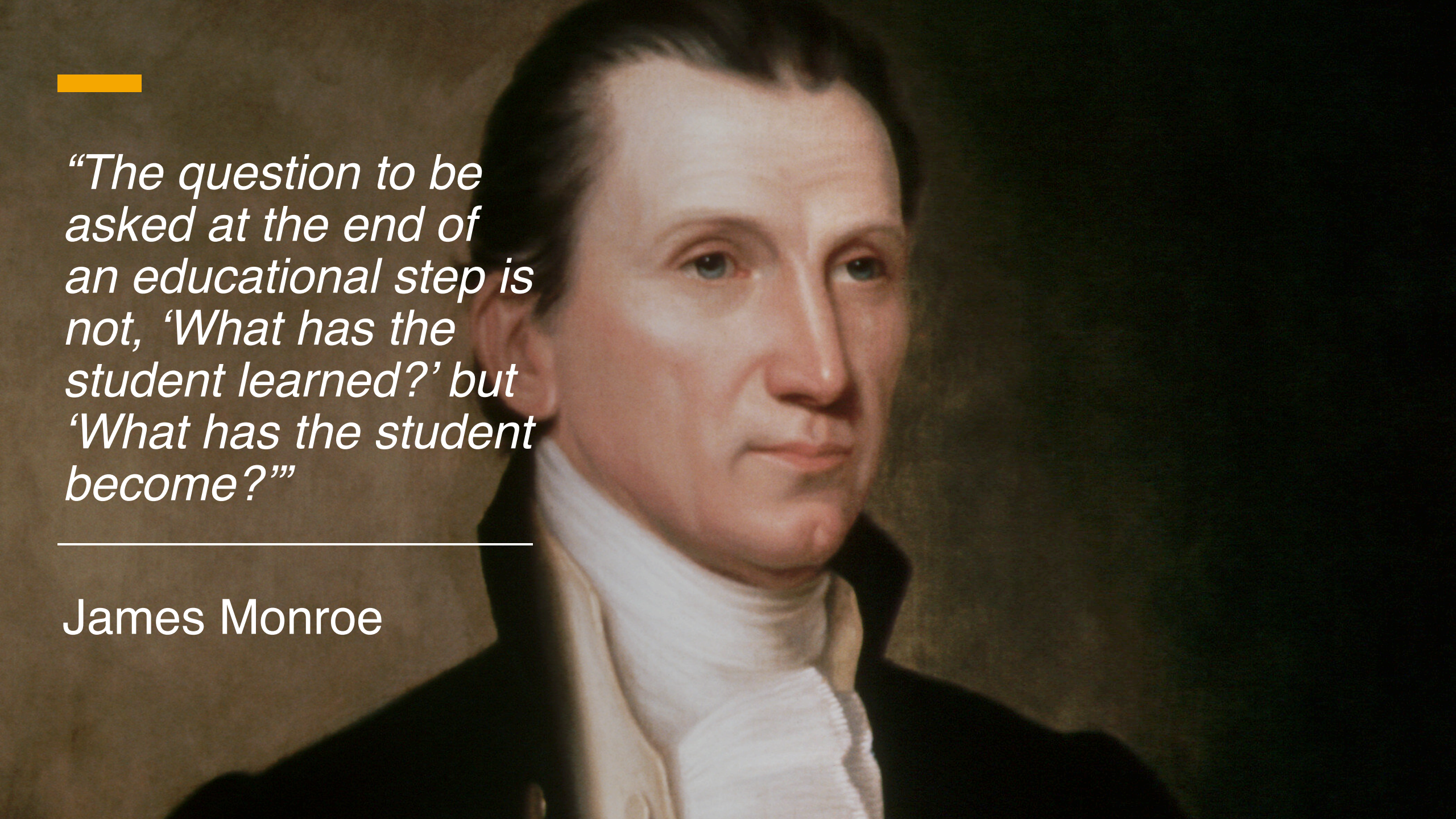
Discipleship Defined

Disciple Making - The investment in helping others become mature followers of Christ through teaching and fellowship.



“Discipleship matters because it is at the center of what Jesus has commissioned his followers to be about. Not only does discipleship summarize God’s interactions with us, but it should be the primary way we invest ourselves in others.”

– *Discipleship that Fits*, 31

A portrait of James Monroe, a man with dark hair, wearing a white high-collared shirt and a dark jacket. The background is dark and textured.

“The question to be asked at the end of an educational step is not, ‘What has the student learned?’ but ‘What has the student become?’”

James Monroe