

# Weaving the Word

## Apprenticeship Training

Part 17 – November 9, 2014

Welcome to where we diagnose the deceptions that blind us to the truth.



**Do you want to be like Jesus?**

*'Cause, I don't think so.*

Do you want to move to Israel? Learn Aramaic? Speak to people in parables? Perform miracles? Wear the *tallit* and *tzitzit*?

Do you *really* want to be just like Jesus?



*'Cause ... you can't. There was just the One.*

And, **we're not called to be just like Jesus.**

**I'm called to be like Jesus would be if He were me.**

**He's not into clones or carbon copies.**



What would Jesus be like if He was raised in a wrecking yard, liked vintage cars, went to film school, and loved the Marx Brothers? In my finest moments, when I'm reflecting Him best, *and* laughing at the antics of Groucho and Chico, *that's* what He'd be like ...

If He were me.

What if He were *you*?



**God lovingly created your uniqueness, as well as your uniquely created purpose; so, why would He want to exterminate the very part of you that He cherishes as your Father?**

**What He wants to exterminate is the corrupted part infested and infected by sin and destroying you with devious deceiving desires.**

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new **[How?] in the attitude of your minds**; and to put on the new self, created to be like God **[How?] in true righteousness and holiness.** – Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV

You should be you; I should be me; we should be we, uniquely, authentically, and enjoyably ... *but Godly*. Like Dad.



**Jesus doesn't want a duplicate; He wants a disciple.**

But, we're not going to use the "D" word. So much of the meaning has been spiritualized out of it, that many believers don't even see it as something *essential to our faith!*

**It's wrongly regarded by many as a costly option for over-the-top believers.** Yet, **discipleship is the heart of the Gospel.** It's *everything*.

**Disciple is what every true Christian is.**

But, we're going to avoid the "D" word for a bit. For the sake of clarity.

We'll replace it with a term that means the same thing, yet, has a meaning that most everyone understands: **"Apprentice" (a novice employed by a master to learn the type of work they do).**

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me **will do what I have been doing.** [What's He referring to? Miracles? Speaking in Aramaic? Wearing His Tallit and Tzitzit? He was very clear as to the type of work He came to do: *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10); so, what had He been doing? Bringing life, which culminated on the cross] He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. [And will multiply Himself through His followers] And I will do whatever you ask in my name, [regarding bringing life] so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, [in alignment with bringing life] and I will do it." – John 14:12-14 NIV



**So, are you an active apprentice or a distracted "D" word?**

If you're *not* a practicing apprentice, **don't call yourself a practicing Christian.**

**It's a contradiction. Illogical. Doesn't exist.**

What are the biggest distractions?



What did Jesus say happens to the seed that grows among thorns?

**"The worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it."** (Mat 13:22)

**The cares of this world aren't necessarily bad** – many are very necessary – **but, if that's our focus, they'll choke us.**



**We must bring our apprenticeship into our day-to-day world.**

**We must job-shadow Jesus at work, school, sport, home, or hobby.**

On the way to where your apprenticeship takes you, take a moment to pray: **“Jesus, help me to see, how you would be, if you were me, *right now.*”**



**Active apprentice or distracted “D” minus?**

We followed Peter, Andrew, James, and John to the hillside above the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus appoints His twelve apprentices.

And as we saw, and will see, from Luke last week, the Sermon on the Mount was aimed at *them*.

Sea of Galilee from Mt of Beatitudes

Matthew’s account, of the Sermon on the Mount, weaves seamlessly with Mark and Luke’s accounts of the *crowds* at the lake, the miraculous catch, and the hillside appointing of the twelve.

And Matthew is *also* quite clear regarding *who* Jesus is teaching.

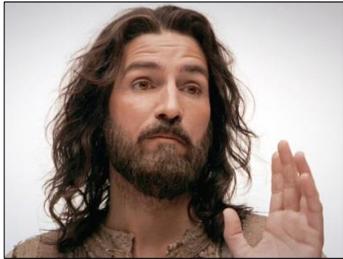
... So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. ... Jesus went up on a mountainside ... Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. ... One of those days Jesus went out to a *mountainside* to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him ... and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ... **His disciples came to him,** [Notice that Matthew says that His disciples (His apprentices) came to him] ... He appointed twelve— ... and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ... [Luke lists the 12] ... designating them apostles—**that they might be with him** [This is such a vital part of being an active apprentice: spending time with the Master, observing, absorbing, and emulating what He does and how He does it] and **that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.** [This is part of the program in our journey with Jesus: to live in this world with Kingdom authority as a Journeyman Ambassador] ... [Mark lists the 12] ... He went down with them and stood on a level place. **A large crowd of his disciples** was there and **a great number of people** from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. [These are the “crowds” Matthew refers to when he says, “when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside”] Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. **Looking at his disciples, he said:** “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” ... and **he began to teach them,** [Who? “His disciples came to him ...”] saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, [humble] for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. – Luke 5:11, 6:12-20; Mark 3:13-19; Mat 4:25-5:3 NIV

**The Sermon on the Mount is apprenticeship orientation!** If I want to be like Jesus would be, if He were me, I must learn to be poor in spirit, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be merciful, and pure in heart, and a peacemaker, and etc.

We tend to see the “D” word as spiritual and vague; but it’s far more intentional and clear-cut than we give it credit for. It’s simply the process of striving to be what Jesus would be.

**To be an active apprentice is to be actively attempting.**

If you’re not applying yourself, and meeting with the Master, through His Word, His people, and prayer, and something takes you by surprise, *don’t be surprised* if you react in an ungodly way.



**It’s absurd to expect to magically reflect the Teacher.**

Training *is* required; as is the indispensable training guide.

**Given what jaw-dropping lengths He put Himself through to provide it to us, and preserve it for us, how precious must it be to Him?**



**More importantly, how precious is it to *you*?**

*In your life. On your journey.*

**Is it your breath? Is it your bread?<sup>1</sup>**

**Or do you prefer choking on thorns?**

The Pharisees had their own apprenticeship program, working in vain to force every follower to become *perfectly* religious.

Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry ...” – Luke 11:46a NIV

**Legalism only gets heavier and heavier; whereas, apprenticing with *the Light of this world* only gets lighter and lighter.**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you** and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

That’s because ***His* apprenticeship program begins with *Him* making *you* perfectly *righteous* ... like you would be, if you were *He*.**

**He doesn’t want duplicates or carbon copies.**

**His heart’s desire is undistracted disciples, focused on the Master – active apprentices, job shadowing Jesus – journeyman ambassadors, living in this world with Kingdom authority.**

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<sup>1</sup> “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16-17); “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Mat 4:4); “For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33)