

Three levels of “Buy In”

1. I will attend as long as I get something out of it
2. I will commit as long as it is still comfortable and doesn't cost me too much
3. I will do whatever it takes no matter how much it costs.

Jesus' Disciples or “wanna be followers” (would a, could a, should a)

1. I wanted to... (commit, sacrifice, fight the good fight) but something suddenly came up!
2. Nikodemus, rich young ruler,

Luke 9 - As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

⁵⁹ He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Characteristics of a Disciple –

- 1. Surrenders – not my will...**
- 2. Follows – wherever, whenever, however you say**
- 3. Serves – washing others' feet (not just when you want, how you want and who you want)**
- 4. Suffers – when its not fair, when it hurts emotionally, physically. Even betrayal**
- 5. Imitates – Jesus like attitude, character, self denial.**

Passing the Test, Tests, daily challenges / attacks / trials.

- 1. When someone falsely accuses you – you see how vindictive you are**
- 2. When someone makes you wait – you see how impatient you are**
- 3. When you have “down time” – do you feed your flesh or feed your spirit**
- 4. When “buy in” requires less sleep, less money, less friends, do you still “buy in”**
- 5. When others manipulate you, use you, lie about you, exaggerate, judge you,**

Ps 55:14 -If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide.¹³ But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,¹⁴ with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers

Matt 18:22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times

Matt 5 - Eye for Eye

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

