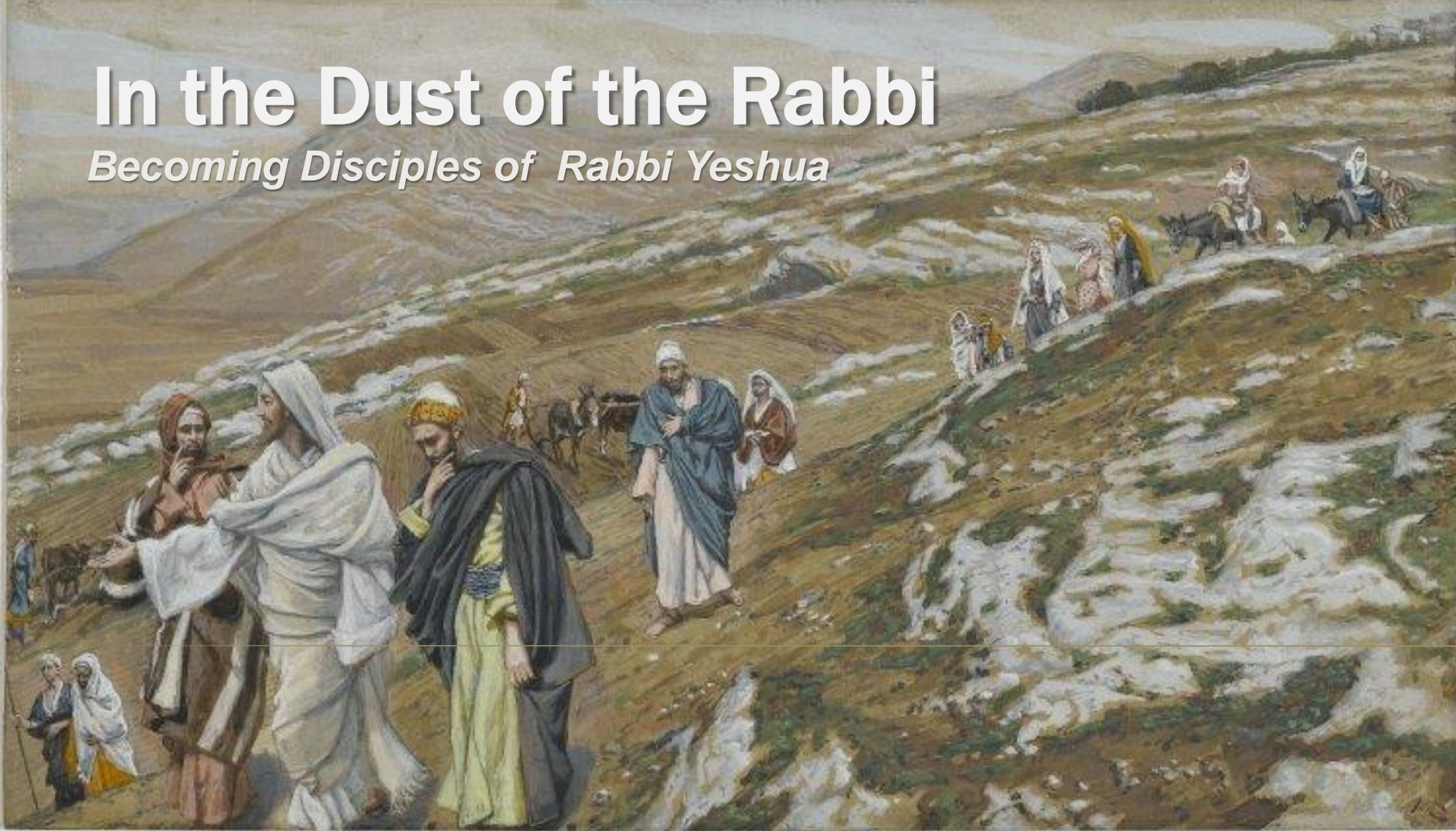


In the Dust of the Rabbi

Becoming Disciples of Rabbi Yeshua



"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, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. . . ."

NKJ **Matthew 28:19-20**

The 1st Century Rabbi / Disciple System

- ✘ What is a rabbi?
- ✘ What does 'disciple' really means?
- ✘ How does one become a disciple?
- ✘ How is a disciple trained?
- ✘ Disciples of Yeshua

A photograph of Ray Vander Laan, a man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. The background shows ancient stone ruins with columns under a clear blue sky. The text 'RAY VANDER LAAN' is overlaid in large white letters on a dark grey semi-transparent bar at the bottom of the image.

RAY VANDER LAAN

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What is Christian discipleship?

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By definition, a disciple is a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.

...we be in the word daily
...in addition, we should always be ready to give testimony of the
reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15) and to disciple others to walk in His way. According to
Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

This week's Question of the Week:

Is it important to
time alone with
God?

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What is Discipleship?

What is Discipleship?

Discipleship is teaching biblical precepts, while modeling and guiding others toward living righteously as followers of Jesus Christ. This should be a cyclical process—meaning once we are discipled, we are to disciple others, and so on. One of the most important characteristics of being a disciple (a student or pupil), is to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ rather than just learning about Him. Discipleship equips the Christian with God's Word, prayer, doctrine, worship, encouragement, and service.

6

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the Rabbi

Rabbi = 'rav' (רַב – 7227)

Meaning = 'great'; 'my great one'



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

s’michah (סמיכה)

“authority”



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

s’michah (סמיכה)

“authority”

from

‘samak’

(סָמַךְ – Strong’s 5564)

‘to place or lay something on
something else’



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

s’michah (סמיכה)

“authority”

from

The laying on of hands



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

Numbers 27:18 - 20 And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom *is* the Spirit, and **lay your hand** on him; ¹⁹ "set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. ²⁰ "And you shall give *some* of your **authority** to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient..



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

“The next ceremony, adopted shortly after the others, was the imposition of hands, which, it is known, was the usage of the Jews at the ordination of a rabbi.”



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

It is believed that Hashem taught the Torah to Moshe Rabbeinu on Mt. Sinai in 1312 BCE and that since that time, the knowledge of Torah has been passed from generation to generation by the conferment of **semikhah**, rabbinic ordination, or the **unbroken transmission of authority** dating back to the time of Moshe. This unbroken chain of tradition is believed by many to have continued for over 3,300 years and continues to this day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semikhah#The_unbroken_chain_of_Torah



the Rabbi with “s’michah”

NKJ **Matthew 15:1-2** Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ²"Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."



the Disciple

‘mathetes’ (Strong’s 3101) – ‘learner’

from

‘manthano’ (Strong’s 3129)

‘to learn’; ‘to increase one’s knowledge’

the Disciple

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“ . . . grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

NKJ **2 Peter 3:18**

the Disciple

‘mathetes’ (Greek for ‘disciple)

=

‘talmid’ (תַּלְמִיד)

from

‘lamad’ (לָמַד – 3925)

‘to learn, be taught, be trained’

Becoming a Disciple

- ✘ age 5 – all children attend the Beit Sefer (house of the Book)
 - + Associated with a synagogue
 - + Taught by a rabbi (teacher, school-master)
 - + Instructed in the Torah (reading, writing, memorization)
- ✘ age 12 or 13 – primary education is complete
 - + Children learn to be adults
 - ✘ Boys learn the family trade, participate in first Passover sacrifice
 - ✘ Girls learn to be a homemaker
 - + Beit Midrash (House of Study) for boys with exceptional study skills
 - ✘ More memorization, study prophets and writings

Becoming a Disciple

- ✘ age 18 – marriage was encouraged, but some ‘gifted’ boys were allowed to continue studies under a rabbi
 - + Become a ‘talmad’ (a disciple)
 - + Search for a rabbi with –
 - ✘ a good reputation
 - ✘ a good understanding of scripture
 - + Ask to join his disciples (Heb. - talmadim)
 - ✘ Many were rejected



the Life of a Disciple

- ✘ stood in awe of his rabbi
- ✘ ate, prayed, danced, sang like the rabbi . . . did everything like the rabbi
- ✘ when traveling – covered with the dust he kicked up
 - + Did not want to miss anything he said
- ✘ Your personal life took second place to that of the rabbi
- ✘ Totally committed to becoming just like your rabbi
 - + becoming what he is ; doing what he can do

the Life of a Disciple

you wanted to

Become just like your Rabbi

the Life of a Disciple

you wanted to

Become just like your Rabbi

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

ESV **Luke 6:40**

the Life of a Disciple

And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

ESV **Matthew 8:19**

Yeshua's Disciples – a Midrash



Yeshua's Disciples – a Midrash



“ . . . Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

ESV **Matthew 4:19**

Yeshua's Disciples –

- ✘ Knew enough about Him to want to be like Him
- ✘ ate, prayed, danced, sang like the rabbi . . . did everything like the rabbi
- ✘ when traveling – covered with the dust he kicked up
 - + Did not want to miss anything he said
- ✘ Your personal like took second place to that of the rabbi
- ✘ Totally committed to becoming just like your rabbi
 - + becoming what he is ; doing what he can do

Yeshua's Disciples –

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide . . .

ESV **John 15:16**

Yeshua's Disciples –

"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. . . ."

NKJ **Matthew 28:19-20**

s'michah (סמיכה)

“authority”

from

‘samak’ (סָמַךְ – Strong’s 5564)

‘to place or lay something on
something else’



Yeshua's Disciples –

“... The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴ "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵ "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶ "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ "greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'

Yeshua's Disciples –

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'epo' – 2036
"say"

'lego' – 3004
"teach, preach"

Yeshua's Disciples –

ESV **Exodus 18:14** When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?"

ESV **Exodus 18:14**



Fig. 4

Yeshua's Disciples –



And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and **sat down**. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

ESV Luke 4:20-21

Fig. 5

Yeshua's Disciples –



Fig. 6

"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

NKJ **Matthew 23:8-10**

The greatest among you will be your servant.

^{NIV} **Matthew 23:11**

(‘rav’ – great one, rabbi)



**“You!
FOLLOW ME!”**

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שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Aleichem

Peace be Unto You