

## **Building Faith Unlikely Disciple Series. Part 2**

Dictionary definition for disciple is- a **follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.**

In the same way, as a disciple of Jesus or follower of Jesus, anywhere he turns we should turn, wherever He leads us, that's where we should go.

The Hebrew word for "disciples" is **\*\*\*"talmidim"\*\*\***, and in Jesus's time talmidim were those who would leave everything behind to follow the ways of their teacher and become the type of person their teacher was. Talmidim would EAT, SLEEP, AND LIVE with the teacher.

In western culture it's hard to identify with someone who would literally leave everything behind to become like his/her teacher or leader in every way. To think, act, and talk like their teacher.

We could try to relate it to a trade apprentice who spends years learning from a master craftsman or even a soldier in bootcamp who has their identity totally taken away to look, talk and act like a soldier. But these don't even come close to Talmidim.

The process of discipleship is often uncomfortable.

*21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. **Matthew 4:21-22 (ESV)***

a. Here we have the initial abandonment of comfort.

b. They left the boat (this represents them abandoning an old life and identity, they were fishermen and this was all they knew)

c. They left their Father (this represents a shift in leadership, they were probably taught to fish by their father and followed him all their lives but now they were called to follow Jesus)

Most of us, at salvation, are full of zeal and excitement for Christ which supersedes any discomfort of leaving what we know and we dive head first into new life with Christ.

This is the beginning of our faith walk, and some may say this is the easy part.

Sanctification means "to make holy, or to be set apart" this is the molding and shaping process that continues all of our lives and can be MESSY.

Apart from the Lord teaching us how to Love Him and other people, the molding of our faith is probably the next most important thing.

Before walking on water he had seen Jesus perform quite a few miracles, the most recent was right before Jesus had fed 5,000 men with 5 loaves and 2 fish. His faith was being built.

Every time we see God move it builds our faith

## **I. Faith is the decision to believe God even in the face of uncertainty.**

As we know the story goes, the disciples were in the boat in the middle of a storm and Jesus came walking on the water and they were terrified.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." **Matthew 14:27-28 (NIV)**

1. Peter had been following Jesus, he was his Talmid, (eat, sleep, and lived with Jesus) but still was having trouble recognizing if it was him or not.

2. Even after Jesus said **“IT’S ME!”** Peter said ‘IF’ it is you which gives the indication of uncertainty.

3. Peter knew Jesus but his knowledge and his faith in what Jesus was able to do was being stretched.

### **B. Faith is not the absence of uncertainty it’s the decision to believe God in the face of uncertainty.**

1. Uncertainty isn’t the opposite of faith. Our human minds can’t completely understand the way God works so there will always be some uncertainty.

2. Doubt is the opposite of faith. Doubt says “it’s impossible” Uncertainty says “I’m not EXACTLY sure how you’re going to do it, but I believe you will and you’re able”

### **C. The uncertainty is what makes the stretching of faith uncomfortable**

1. Comfort and faith are like oil and water

2. Not knowing the details of who, what, when, where, why, and how God is going to do something causes uncertainty and it’s uncomfortable. WE WANNA KNOW EVERYTHING.

3. Peter didn’t know how, he was uncertain, but he chose to believe and take action

### **D. Uncertainty of trials stretch our faith.**

1. Financial issues, family issues, and everyday trials

## **II. Faith is the decision to act even though there are risks!**

A. "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:29 (NIV)

1. **Faith is belief in action**, in James it says faith without works is dead. They go hand in hand.

2. How many of us will say "I believe God can do this or that" but are afraid to get out of the boat and walk.

### **B. Risk is necessary in the building of our faith**

1. Faith is like a muscle, the process of building it is uncomfortable and hurts.

2. But we can't build it if we don't go through the process and taking risks while following the Lord is necessary.

3. If Peter never took the risk of getting out of the boat and drowning and beginning to walk, his trust and faith in Jesus abilities would have missed out on an opportunity to be stretched.

### **C. Doubting in the midst of a risk can cause us to sink**

1. After Peter took action and started walking Verse 30 says he saw the wind and became afraid and started to sink.

2. He was literally walking on water but what he saw around him caused him to doubt.

3. Abraham took the risk of answering God's call and leaving his home to go wherever God told him.

4. God had promised to multiply his descendants. He ended up in Egypt. But he started to doubt, he thought that the men would see his attractive wife and kill him (even though God had promised him descendants)

5. So, he took matters into his own hands and lied and told them it was his sister (half-truth) .
6. Doubting God's protection caused him to deceive the king.
7. If we say we have faith in God, we shouldn't resort to deceptive measures, though sometimes it may be tempting BECAUSE WE WILL MISS OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE GOD WORK.

### **III. Faith requires a total abandon to God**

- A. Peter got out of the boat and started walking.
  1. Some of us may get out of the boat but hold on to the side of the boat JUST IN CASE or even stay close to the boat.
  2. There are no PLAN B's in real genuine faith, it's all or nothing.
  3. Part of getting out of the boat and walking is leaving it behind.

### **IV. Faith is the ability to see a God given opportunity!**

- A. Peter was the only disciple who was able to look past the obvious limitations of the moment and see an opportunity.
  1. It was stormy, they were away from the land, and they weren't quite sure if it was Jesus, yet peter looked past the problems and saw an opportunity to experience a move of God.
  2. Choosing to stay in the boat and play it safe will cause us to miss out on some mind-blowing experiences that build our faith.

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." **Matthew 14: 32-33 (NIV)**

**Faith is the decision to believe God even in the face of uncertainty.**

**Faith is the decision to act even though there are risks.**

**Faith requires a total abandon to Go.**

**Faith is the ability to see a God given opportunity!**

**Challenge:** Try to look at every trial or uncertain situation as an opportunity for the Lord to build your faith.