

# Practicing Disciples

## *In Training*

Isaiah 38:16 (NIV)

You restored me to health and let me live.

### I. Life Plan

Chosen; learn/study; **train**; practice; stop practicing; reward

1 Timothy 4:6-7 (NIV)

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly**.

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NIV)

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use **have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil**.

Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace **for those who have been trained by it**.

### II. Jesus Training His Disciples (Mark 9)

#### A. Mt of Transfiguration . . . Peter, James, John

Mark 9:2-6 (NIV)

After six days **Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain**, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

1. custom designed training opportunities
2. seldom prepared for initial experience

#### B. Father & Son ---seizures & demonic activity

Mark 9:17-32 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. **I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.**" <sup>19</sup> "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." <sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup> "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

<sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

<sup>28</sup> **After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"** <sup>29</sup> **He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."**

1. lesson in prayer
2. demonic activity

## C. Preparation for upcoming experiences

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup>*because he was teaching his disciples*. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> **But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.**

1. not easily grasped
2. discomfort of learners

## II. Our Training

### A. the role of "the Law"

Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Galatians 3:24 (NIV)

So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 10:3-4 (NASB)

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

### B. The Character of God

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Colossians 3:5-10 (NIV)

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

### C. Training for the "Entire Person"

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. **May your whole spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 1. Body

Proverbs 28:7-8 (NASB)

He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

<sup>8</sup> He who increases his wealth by interest and usury Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.

#### 2. Soul

Ephesians 4:23 (NASB)

and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Ephesians 4:22-23 (NIV)

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; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, I choose to yield to you today as one being taught. Holy Spirit help me. I repent of pride, self-righteousness and complacency. I will walk in the truth I know. My desire is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and live a life that is pleasing in God's sight. Through my life may the name of Jesus be exalted and His kingdom extended. In Jesus' name, amen.