

Shavuot and discipleship

by Tony Robinson

SJA'VOE'OT
2018
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119

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Biblical Discipleship

- **Matthew 28:18-20** – And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. *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*; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Biblical Discipleship

- How do we make disciples?
 - Baptizing them –
 - **Step One** – Birthing new citizens into the Kingdom of God
 - Teaching them to observe Yeshua's commandments –
 - **Step Two** – Growth and maturity into Yeshua
- The implication is that everyone participates in these two steps

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Yeshua the Master Teacher (Our Goal)

- **Ephesians 4:11-16** – . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, *to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, *may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ What Did Yeshua Teach About Discipleship?

- John 15:5-8 – “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. *He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.* 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. 7 *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.* 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; *so you will be My disciples.*”

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ What Did Yeshua Teach About Discipleship?

- What does Yeshua mean by “if you abide in me and I in you”?
- I John 3:24 – Now *he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.* And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Remember, Biblical Discipleship Involves Two Things

1. **We** are to **abide in Yeshua and He in us** (keeping His commandments)
2. **His Words** are to **abide in us**
 - Study, meditation, memorization, confession, reading, contemplating, quoting, etc., etc., etc.

John 15:1-8
 “He who abides in Me
 and I in him”
 Keeps His
 Commandments

John 15:1-8
 “And My words
 abide in you”

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ What Did Paul Teach About Discipleship?

- Romans 12:1-2 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service**. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ What Did Paul Teach About Discipleship?

- Romans 12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*
- Reasonable Service = serving Adonai = walking in obedience to Yeshua, or *abiding in Him and He in you*

John 15:1-8

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Foundations in Discipleship

➤ What Did Paul Teach About Discipleship?

- Romans 12:2 – And do not be conformed to this world, *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- His words abide in You

John 15:1-8

“And My words
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Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **Romans 12:1-2** Also Shows That Biblical Discipleship Involves Two Things

1. Present *your bodies as a living sacrifice unto God*, which is your reasonable service
2. And do not be conformed to this world, *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*,

John 15:1-8

“He who abides in Me and I in him”

Keeps His Commandments

John 15:1-8

“And My words abide in you”

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **What Else Did Yeshua Teach About Discipleship?**

- Luke 9:23-24 – Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, *let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me*. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Foundations in Discipleship

- **Connecting Yeshua and Paul's Statements**
 - Luke 9:23-24 – . . . *let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me . . .*
 - Romans 12:1 – . . . *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service . . .*
 - How many thematic connections can you see between these two statements?
 - Are these concepts taught in the Tanakh?

Foundations in Discipleship

- **Discipleship in the Tanakh**
 - Genesis 22:1-19 – Olah (Whole Burnt Offering)
 - Picture of the offerer giving their life in complete submission Adonai and obedience to His commandments
 - Abraham – that which is of most value to me
 - Isaac – my very life
 - Isaac as an olah carried his own wood right?
 - The Binding of Isaac is Luke 9:23-24 in living color!

Foundations in Discipleship

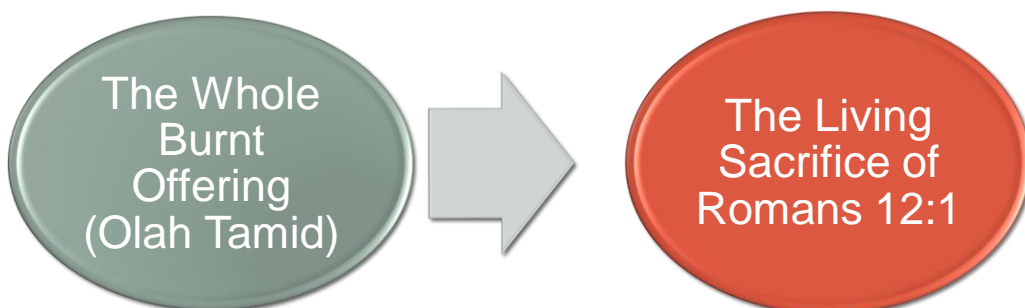
Discipleship in the Apostolic Writings . . .



Is the Same as Discipleship in the Tanakh!

Foundations in Discipleship

Discipleship in the Tanakh



Is the Foundation For Discipleship in the Apostolic Writings

Foundations in Discipleship

- **The Olah Tamid – the Offering of Discipleship**
 - Olah Tamid is the offering where we present ourselves before Adonai twice each day, in the morning and “between the evenings” (typically 3:00, but anytime between once the sun begins its descent and night time)
 - I see the connection between the olah tamid and obedience to Yeshua’s commandments, but what about the Word of God? How does the olah tamid address the second aspect of discipleship, “His words abiding in us”?

Foundations in Discipleship

- **Discipleship in the Tanakh**
 - Exodus 25:22 – And there I will meet with you, and *I will speak with you from above the mercy seat*, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the ark of the Testimony, *about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.*
 - Adonai will speak His words (The Words of God) at the tabernacle the place we offer the olah

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Discipleship in the Tanakh

- Exodus 29:42 – *This shall be* a continual burnt offering [olah tamid] throughout your generations *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord, where ***I will meet you to speak with you.***
- Adonai will speak His words at the tabernacle, ***the place we offer the olah***

#1

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Remember, Biblical Discipleship Involves Two Things

1. ***We*** are to ***abide in Yeshua and He in us*** (keeping His commandments)
2. ***His Words*** are to ***abide in us***
 - Study, meditation, memorization, confession, reading, contemplating, quoting, etc., etc., etc.

John 15:1-8

“He who abides in Me
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#2

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **Romans 12:1-2** Also Shows That Biblical Discipleship Involves Two Things

1. Present *your bodies as a living sacrifice unto God*, which is your reasonable service
2. And do not be conformed to this world, *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*,

John 15:1-8

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#3

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **Exodus 29:42** – The Olah Tamid Also Shows That Biblical Discipleship Consists of Two Things!

1. *This shall be* a continual burnt offering [olah tamid]
2. Where I will meet *you to speak to you* (The Words of God)

John 15:1-8

“He who abides in Me and I in him”

Keeps His Commandments

John 15:1-8

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Foundations in Discipleship

➤ Biblical Discipleship

- **Matthew 10:24-25a** – “A *disciple* is not above his *teacher*, nor a *servant* above his *master*. *It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.*
 - He is the master, we are the slave. Primary task. . .
 - Obedience to the master’s commands
 - He is the teacher, we are the students. Primary task. . .
 - Know, understand, believe and act on the words of the teacher

#4

Foundations in Discipleship

- **Matthew 10:24-25a** – Yeshua’s teaching on the master/slave and teacher/discipleship relationship shows that Biblical discipleship consists of two things:
 1. The slave’s primary duty is to *obey his master*
 2. The student’s primary objective is to *learn the teachings (words) of his master*

John 15:1-8

“He who abides in Me
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Keeps His
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John 15:1-8

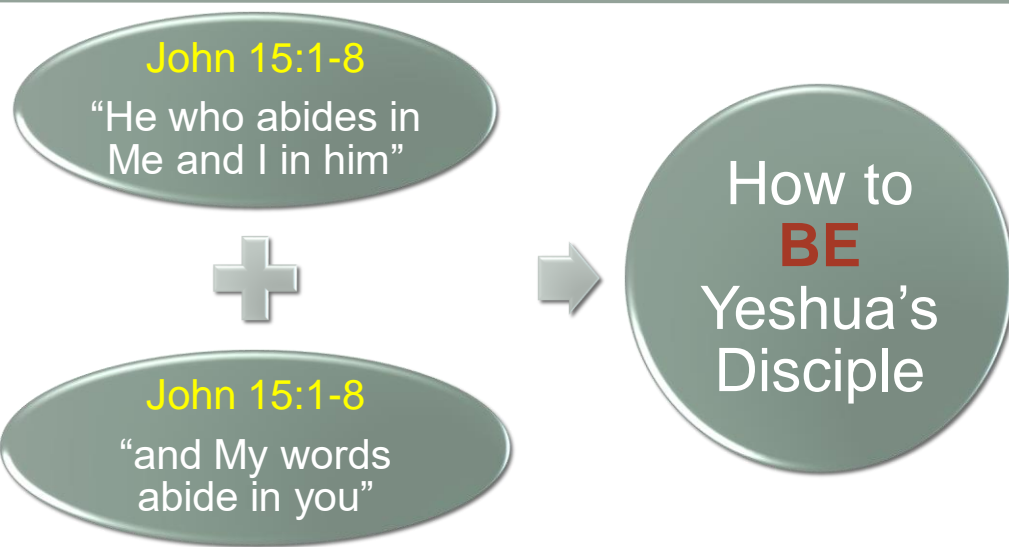
“And My words
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Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship

➤ What's So Special About Psalm 119?

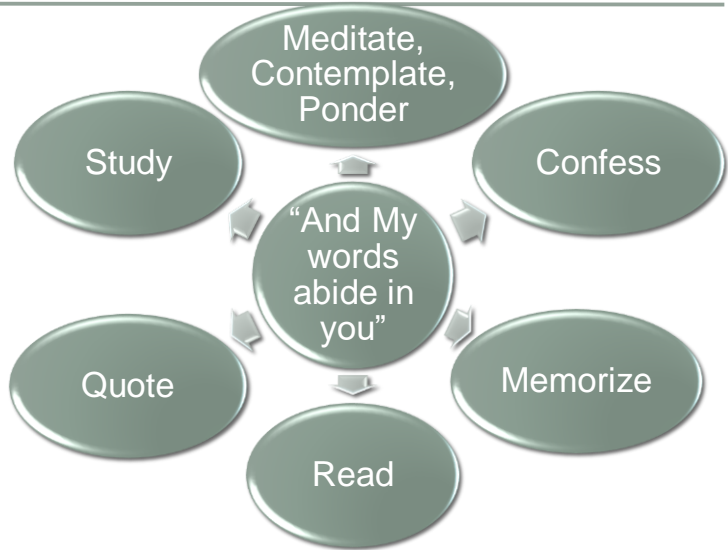
- What would you say are the top two subjects of prayer, confession, rejoicing and/or interest to the psalmist of Psalm 119?
- Obedience to the Word of God
- Love for the Word of God

Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship



Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship

Practically speaking, how do we get "His words to abide in us"?

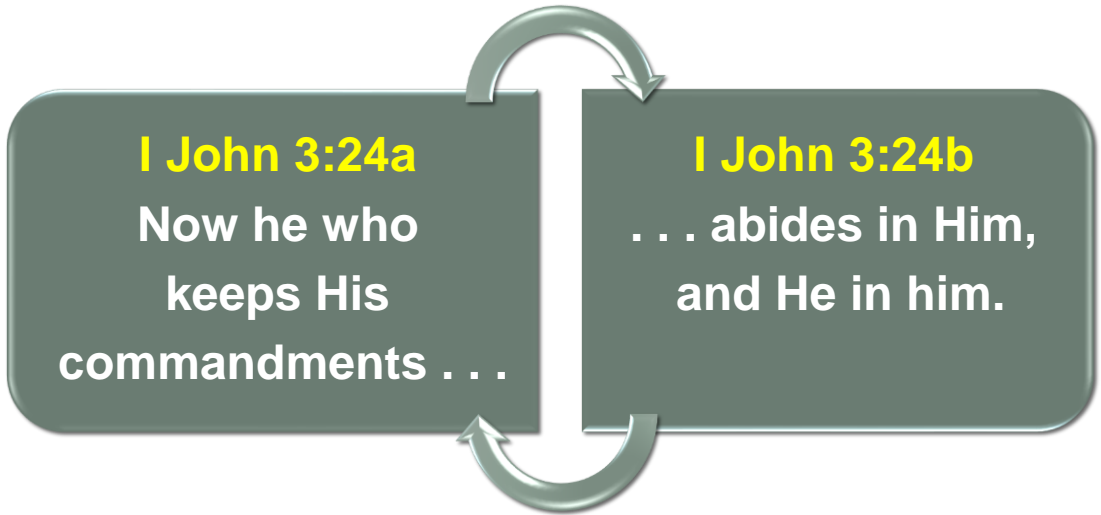


Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship

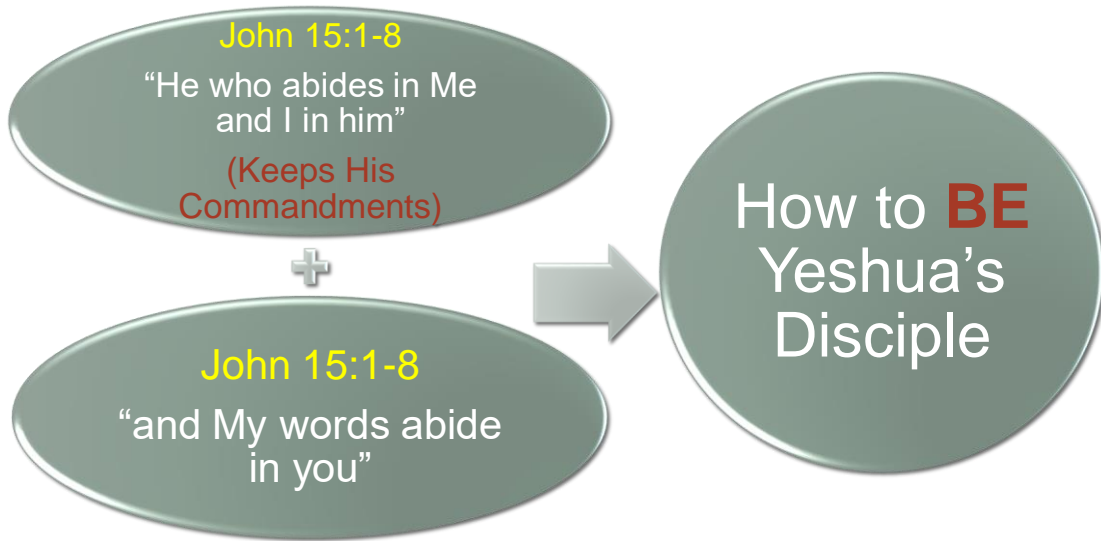
Practically speaking, how do we "abide in Him and He in us"?



Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship



Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship



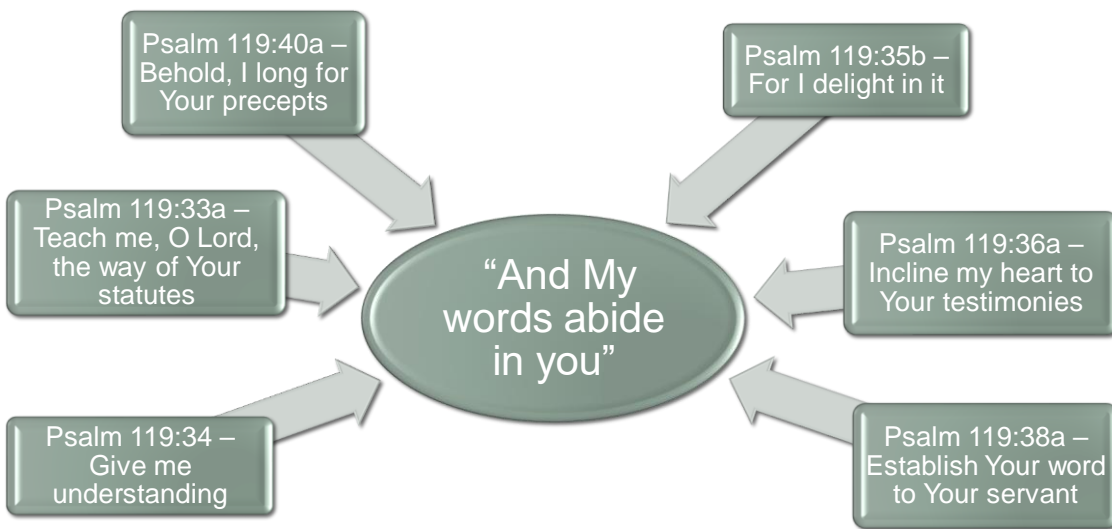
Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship

Psalm 119:33-40 h



Psalm 119 - The Psalm of Discipleship

Psalm 119:33-40 h



#5

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **Psalm 119** – The major topics of Psalm 119 speak of the two aspects of Biblical discipleship:

1. The psalmist constantly makes reference to *obedience to the Word of God*
2. The psalmist also ceaselessly talks about *his love for the Word of God*

John 15:1-8

“He who abides in Me
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Keeps His
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John 15:1-8

“And My words
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Foundations in Discipleship

- **Discipleship in the Tanakh**
- Psalm 40:6-8 – Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; *My ears You have opened*. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book *it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.*”
- “My ears you have opened” to what??? *His Word!!!*
 - “I delight to do Your will” *Obedience!!!*
 - “Your law is within my heart” *His Word!!!*

#6

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **Psalm 40:6-8** – The parallelism of this classic psalm teaching us about the olah tamid speaks of the two aspects of Biblical discipleship:

1. “I delight to do Your will” speaks of *Obedience*
2. “My ears you have opened” and “Your law is within my heart” speak of *His Word!!!*

John 15:1-8

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Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **The Olah – The Sacrifice of Discipleship**

➤ Daniel 6:10

- Olah offering personified by Daniel’s personal devotion to Adonai
- The quintessential example of one of Adonai’s servants who got the revelation and ran with it!

#7

Foundations in Discipleship

- Job 23:11-12 – *My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way* and not turned aside. I have *not departed from the commandment of His lips*; I have *treasured the words of His mouth More* than my necessary food.
1. Holding fast to His steps and not departing from the commandment of His lips speaks of *Obedience*
 2. Treasuring the words of His mouth speak of *a profound hunger for the Word of God!!!*

John 15:1-8

“He who abides in Me
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Keeps His
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John 15:1-8

“And My words
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Foundations in Discipleship

- Psalm 1:1-2 – Blessed is the man *Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful*; But *his delight is in the law of the Lord*, And *in His law he meditates* day and night.
- A. **Abiding in Him and He in Us (Keeping His Commandments)**
- By stating using three phrases to describe what this man *does not do*, it emphasizes what he is doing – *he’s obeying Adonai’s commandments*.
- B. **His words abiding in us –**
- He delights and *meditates in the Word*

#8

Foundations in Discipleship

➤ **Psalm 1:1-2** – Blessed *is* the man
*Who walks not in the counsel of
 the ungodly, Nor stands in the
 path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat
 of the scornful; But his delight is
 in the law of the Lord, And in His
 law he meditates* day and night.

1. His obedience prevents his disobedience *Obedience*
2. He delights and meditates in the *law (Torah/Word)!!!*

John 15:1-8

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Making Disciples of Yeshua

➤ **How Did Yeshua Make Disciples**

- Since Yeshua is our Master, why not follow His example of making disciples
 - Matthew 4:19 – Then He said to them, “*Follow Me*, and I will make you fishers of men.”
 - Matthew 9:9 – As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “*Follow Me.*” So he arose and followed Him.

Making Disciples of Yeshua

➤ How Did Yeshua Make Disciples

- Matthew 16:24 – Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and *follow Me*.”
- *Discipleship is ALL about following Yeshua!*
- Following Yeshua is the most basic description of the process for how Yeshua makes disciples.
- So how does this fit with our current definition of Being a Disciple of Yeshua???

Making Disciples of Yeshua

➤ How Did Yeshua Make Disciples

- He *called* to Himself a *small group of individuals*, formed *intimate relationships* with them, and had them *follow Him* wherever He went
- As they followed Him through life’s everyday circumstances He taught them (*Word abiding in us*) and gave them commandments to observe (*Abiding in Him/Keeping His commandments*)

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **How Did Yeshua Make Disciples**
 - It's all about Following Yeshua
 - When we Follow Yeshua we put ourselves under His tutelage to learn His teachings (the Word abiding in us) and put them into practice (Abiding in Him)

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **How Did Yeshua Make Disciples**
 - Yes He had big meetings where He taught the multitudes; however, that was more to draw people in than to make disciples
 - Many times He would only speak to the multitudes in parables and would only reveal things to His disciples
 - Many times the multitudes would initially respond favorably but would then reject Him later

Making Disciples of Yeshua

➤ The Starting Point

- In order to make disciples you must first be a disciple
- What is the process of being a disciple?
 - **Follow Yeshua**
 - *Abiding in Him* (Keeping His commandments)
 - Getting *His words to Abide in us*

Making Disciples of Yeshua

➤ The Starting Point

- If being a disciple simply means to Follow Yeshua, then *making disciples simply means to help each other Follow Yeshua!*
- This should be done as Yeshua did it . . .

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- We Need to Make Disciples as Yeshua Made Disciples
 - 1) He *called* to Himself a *small group of individuals*, 2) formed *intimate relationships* with them, and 3) had them *follow Him* wherever He went

THEREFORE

- Each one of us is *called* to form *intimate relationships* with a *small group of individuals* where we *help each other Follow Yeshua* wherever He's leading us in our lives

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- We Need to Make Disciples as Yeshua Made Disciples
 - As they followed Him through life's everyday circumstances He taught them (*Word abiding in us*) and gave them commandments to observe (*Abiding in Him/Keeping His commandments*)

THEREFORE

- We need to help each other know, understand, and believe Yeshua's teachings (*Word abiding in us*) and put them into practice (*Abiding in Him/Keeping His commandments*)

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - We already have intimate relationships with each other
 - We already spend intimate time with each other
 - We already talk to each other regularly
 - The key to discipleship is to seize the opportunity to transform our day to day conversations with each other from just mundane conversations to conversations that have the goal of helping each other Follow Yeshua

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if every time you had a conversation with an intimate friend you asked one of the following questions at some time during the discussion:
 - What's Adonai doing in your life?
 - Where is Yeshua leading you today in this situation?
 - How's your pursuit of Yeshua going?
 - How are you progressing in getting the Word into you?
 - Are there any commandments Adonai is dealing with you about?
 - How are you obeying such and such a command?

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if every time you had a conversation with an intimate friend you started the conversation with:
 - How are your quiet times going?
 - How did Adonai speak to you through this past Shabbat's message?
 - Would you like to do a short study together for the next 2, 3, 7, or 30 days?

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if you took these messages to heart and began to partner with your intimate friends and determined that you were going to help each other put the teachings into practice?
 - What would happen if you and your intimate friends covenanted with each other that you would commit yourselves to helping each other follow Yeshua such that when you talk to each other you expect for the other person to engage you in these types of conversations?

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if after each conversation with your intimate friends you would do the following:
 - Ask them how can you pray for them till the next time you talk to or meet with them?
 - Before ending the conversation ask them if there is some way you can pray for them right then?
 - Ask them do you mind if we discuss your progress on this area of discipline you're struggling with?
 - Ask your friend to pray for you for strength and/or wisdom for some problem in your life.

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if you made it a point to be an encourager in all of your conversations with your intimate friends?
 - What would happen if you asked Adonai to give you wisdom for sharing encouragement from Scripture about a friends struggle?
 - What would happen if you intimate friends covenanted to pray for the difficult aspects of each others' lives?
 - What would happen if you began to share areas of weakness with an intimate friend so that you can mutually encourage one another with prayer and love?

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if you made it a point to begin to study the “one another” passages in Scripture and began to practice them with your small group of intimate friends?
 - What would happen if you and your small group of intimate friends you made it a point to begin to study the “one another” passages in Scripture and began to practice them with each other?

Making Disciples of Yeshua

- **This is Done One Intimate Conversation at a Time**
 - What would happen if you and your intimate group of friends covenanted to begin helping each other study the word by setting goals for reading, meditating, etc.? And what would happen if you submitted yourselves to be accountable to each other to complete the task at hand?