

6.12

The Disciples of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

Those who are to “make disciples” of others must first be made disciples themselves.

Jesus calls them to fish for people (4:18–22; cf. 9:9).

Faithful women sent to recover the unfaithful eleven (28:1–10).

The disciples of Jesus are called as sinners.

Jesus has come to save sinners (1:21).

Jesus calls sinners, just as a physician goes to the sick (9:13).

The disciples of Jesus are people of “little faith.”

They worry about being fed and clothed (6:25–34).

They fear a storm at sea (8:26).

Peter is fearful and doubtful (14:30–31).

They misguidedly discuss having no bread (16:8).

They cannot cast out a demon (17:16, 19–20a).

(Cf. “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed . . .” [17:20b].)

The disciples of Jesus worship and doubt.

Peter tries to walk on water (14:28–33).

The eleven gather to receive the Great Commission (28:17).

The disciples increase in understanding.

They have ears that hear and eyes that see (13:16; cf. 11:15; 13:9, 43).

They understand the parables of the kingdom (13:51).

They understand about the “leaven” of the religious leaders (16:12).

They understand about Elijah and John the Baptist (17:11–13).