

# Becoming Jesus' Disciples: The Examples of Those Who Did

## Sunday Mornings in January at National Presbyterian Church

Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe

When we think of “the disciples” who followed Jesus, it’s usually the twelve that he named as apostles who come to mind. But when we look closely at the gospels, the category “disciple” becomes much wider and more complicated. Who were these men and women, why did they follow Jesus, and what were the challenges they faced?

January 5 — The 12, the 70, Scribes for the Kingdom, and Many More

January 12 — Samaritan and Women Disciples

January 19 — Undercover Agents, Pharisees, Secret Disciples

In these sessions Charles Hambrick-Stowe will explore surprising implications for the decision to follow Jesus in our own time. Come and learn more about “the cost and joy of discipleship” from the examples of those who first followed him.

Charles Hambrick-Stowe is minister emeritus of the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, Connecticut. Previously, he served as academic dean of Northern Seminary in Illinois, director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (where Dr. Hylton received his DMin degree), and pastor at Church of the Apostles in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Westminster, Maryland. In addition to MA, and MDiv degrees, he holds a PhD in American Studies from Boston University. He is the author of numerous books and articles in the fields of religious history and biblical studies.

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## Session One: The 12, the 70, Scribes for the Kingdom, and More

### The School of Discipleship

Luke 6:12-16      “Now in those days he went out to the mountain to pray. . . . And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles.” (Mark 3:13-15; Matthew 10:2-4)

John 1:38          “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher)”

Mark 1:21, 29-34      Simon & Andrew’s house in Capernaum  
2:1-2                  Jesus “at home” in Capernaum  
9:30f; 10:10          “Did not understand...afraid to ask...in the house he asked...disciples asked...”

Matthew 4:12-17      “Made his home in Capernaum”  
  
13:1, 34-35          “Jesus went out of the house” . . . parables  
13:36                  “Into the house . . . disciples approached”  
13:51-52              “Have you understood all this?”  
  
5:1-2                  “He sat down...disciples came...he taught”  
7:28-29                “He taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes”

Luke 11:1-4          “A certain place . . . Lord, teach us to pray”

### The Seventy

Luke 10:1ff          “The Lord appointed seventy others...in pairs”

### Healed and Forgiven Disciples

Mark 2:15-17      “At dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners . . . for there were many who followed him. . . . ‘not the righteous but sinners.’”

Mark 10:46-52	“Bartimaeus . . . followed him on the way”
John 9:24-28, 35-38	Man blind from birth . . . “You are his disciple”
Mark 14:3/Mt 26:6	“At Bethany in the house of Simon the leper”
Luke 8:1-3	“The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities . . .”

### Scribes Trained for the Kingdom

Matt. 8:19-23	“A scribe then approached . . . ‘I will follow you wherever you go’... Another of his disciples said . . .”
Mark 12:28-34	“One of the scribes came near . . . Jesus said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’”
12:38	The matter of a comma in translation
Luke 10:23-37	“A lawyer stood up . . .” “Go and do likewise.”
Matt. 13:52	“Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven . . .” (Ezra 7:6, 10; Nehemiah 8:1-8)
23:34	“I send you prophets, sages, and scribes”

### How Many Disciples?

Luke 6:12-17	“A great crowd of his disciples”
John 4:1-3	“More disciples than John”
Mark 14:51-52	“A certain young man was following him”
Luke 24:13ff	Two disciples, Cleopas and another unnamed
Acts 1:12-15	“ . . . they went to the room upstairs . . . [The 11] were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. . . . together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons.”

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## Session Two: Samaritan and Women Disciples

### Samaritan Disciples

John 4:4-30 4:39-42	Samaritan woman at the well “Many Samaritans believed . . . Savior of world”
Luke 9:51-56	Jesus sends “messengers” to Samaritan villages
John 8:48	Jesus branded “a Samaritan” with a demon

### Women Disciples

Luke 8:1-3	Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, “some women who had been cured...and many others, who provided for them out of their resources”
Mark 15:40-41 Matthew 27:55-56	Women who “followed and provided for him”
Luke 7:36-50	“A woman in the city, who was a sinner... ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace’”
Mk 14:3-9/Mt 26:6-13	“At Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came . . . ‘What she has done will be told in remembrance of her.’”

### Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42	“Martha welcomed . . . Mary sat at the Lord’s feet”
John 11	“Now a certain man was ill, Lazareth of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha . . .”
John 12:1-8	“Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany...” Martha serves, Mary anoints

### At the cross

Matthew 27:55-56	“Many women were also there... had followed Jesus...and had provided.” Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of sons of Zebedee
Mark 15:40-41	Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, “many other women who had come up with him”
Luke 23:49	“women who had followed him from Galilee”
John 19:25	Mary mother of Jesus, her sister, Mary wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene

### At the tomb/Resurrection witnesses

Mark 15:47-16:1ff	Mary Magalene, Mary mother of Joses, Salome, Mary mother of James
Matthew 28:1-10	Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary”
Lk 23:54-24:10, 21-24	Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary mother of James, “and the other women with them”
John 20:1-18	Mary Magdalene

### Mary the Mother of Jesus

Luke 2:19 2:48	Mary mother of Jesus, “treasured...pondered” “Child, why have you treated us like this?”
John 2:1-12	Marriage at Cana; Capernaum w/mother et al.
Mark 3:31-35	“Who is my mother . . . brothers?” Matthew 12:46-50/Luke 8:19-21
John 19:26-27	“Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother”

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## Session Three: Undercover Agents, Pharisees, Secret Disciples

### Jesus' Undercover Agents

- John 19:38      "Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one"
- Luke 9:51-52      "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him."
- 19:29-34      "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt . . ."  
(Mark 11:1-6; Matthew 21:1-3)
- 22:7-13      "When you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters, and say to the owner . . ."  
(Mark 14:12-16; Matthew 26:17-19)

### Pharisee Hospitality: Suspicion . . . Interest . . . Action . . . Division . . . Faith?

- Luke 7:36-50      "One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him... 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'Speak . . .'"
- 13:31-35      "Some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me . . .'"
- 14:1-15      "On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath..."

- John 9:16 “Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided.”
- 9:27 “Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”
- 12:10-11 “Chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.”

### Friends in High Places: Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and . . . ?

- John 3:1ff Nicodemus “a leader of the Jews . . . ‘Rabbi, we know you a teacher who has come from God.’”
- 7:45-52 “Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and was one of them, asked, ‘Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing, does it? . . . ‘Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you?’”
- 18:15-17 “Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest . . .”
- 19:38-42 “After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. . . . Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.”  
(Also: Matthew 27:57ff; Mark 15:42ff; Luke 23:50ff)