

DESCIPLE

(μαθηται = 'mathite')

A learner, pupil, student, disciple.

Matthew 5:1, “And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.”

The root of this word is 'math', which is “thought accompanied by endeavor or action,” and it denotes “someone who follows another’s teaching.” Therefore, a “**disciple**” was not only a pupil but also a follower, that’s why they are spoken of as imitators of their teacher (John 8:31).

“And when He was seated His disciples came to Him.” It was the custom for rabbis to sit while teaching and Jesus did the same. When He'd found a suitable spot, His disciples gathered round. However, after a time, the *disciples* probably included a much wider audience.

The Greek word translated disciple, means a student '*one who is being taught*', but a better paraphrase would be '*one who is being taught to teach others to be teachers*'. A disciple teaches others, to teach others to teach! It is a recurring action brought about by a divine calling.

A distinct process that Jesus started, having prior and full knowledge of the outcome... **“Therefore, go make disciples of all nations”** (Matthew 28:19). True disciples would impact on nations and frame the tapestry of a new society. Social and moral standards would be measured against God’s word. The church and the state would become one – under One God.