

Serving as Students of the King

One of the most beautiful invitations Jesus extends to us is to follow Him not only as Saviour and Lord but also as Teacher. To live and serve as His disciples is to recognise that we are first and foremost students of the King—apprentices in His Kingdom, learning His ways, shaped by His Spirit, and equipped for His mission.

Jesus never separates service from learning. He calls us to a lifestyle where obedience flows from intimacy, and action is birthed in revelation. He said: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29). The Christian life is a school—but the classroom is the world, and the Teacher is Jesus Himself.

When Jesus called His first disciples, He didn’t invite them to a lecture hall. He said: “Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people” (Matthew 4:19). This is the essence of discipleship: not just believing, but following. We don’t simply seek information; we seek transformation. We are not consumers of religious content, but apprentices learning a way of life.

The Curriculum of the Kingdom

Every good teacher has a curriculum. For students of the King, it includes:

1. The Word of God – “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Scriptures are the living voice of the King, shaping our thinking and living.
2. The Ways of Jesus – “Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6). That means humility, prayer, obedience, compassion, generosity, truthfulness, and dependence on the Father. Our curriculum is not only what Jesus taught but how He lived.
3. The Spirit of God – “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26). The Spirit is our daily Tutor, whispering truth, reminding us of promises, and empowering us to live them out.

The Practice of Apprenticeship

Students of the King learn not only through sermons or studies but also through experiences—both successes and failures. Like apprentices in a trade, we learn best with hands-on practice in the workshop of daily life: prayer, serving, forgiving, giving. We learn in community, as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17). We learn by obedience, even when it costs. True disciples are not merely hearers but doers of the Word (James 1:22). Learning without obedience leads to pride, but obedience without learning leads to burnout. The balance of both keeps us in step with the Spirit.

The Goal of the Student

Every student eventually becomes like their teacher. Jesus said: “The student is not above

the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher” (Luke 6:40). The goal is not religious performance, but Christlikeness—to think, act, and love like the King. Paul writes: “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29).

Each act of service becomes a seed that shapes our character. When we serve with humility, we learn patience. When we serve generously, we learn trust. When we serve faithfully, we discover joy. Service is the soil where the fruit of the Spirit is grown and tested. In this way, our service mirrors Jesus, who said, “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

Application for Us

Stay teachable—never stop learning, whether young or old. Pride says, “I know enough”; humility says, “I want to learn more of Jesus.”

Make space for the Word—personally and together, opening Scripture not just for knowledge but for obedience.

Listen to the Spirit—in decisions, in prayer, in our daily walk.

Practice together—serve in love, share the gospel, encourage one another. The classroom of the King is right here among us.

Serving and living as students of the King is a lifelong calling. We are never finished, never fully formed, always learning. Yet this is not a burden but a joy. The King delights in teaching us and takes pleasure in our growth. The invitation still stands: “Come, follow Me.” Let us live, learn, and love as His students until the day when the King returns and says: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Questions

What does it mean to be a “student of the King” rather than simply a believer?

(Matthew 4:19) How does following Jesus in daily life go beyond church attendance?

How do we balance learning and obedience in discipleship?

(James 1:22) What dangers arise when we separate learning from obedience? How have you experienced growth through applying what you’ve learned?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our apprenticeship to Jesus?

(John 14:26) How can we cultivate greater sensitivity to the Spirit’s teaching & reminders in our daily walk?

How does service shape our character as students of the King?

(Luke 22:27) In what ways have acts of service taught you patience, trust, or joy? How does serving others make us more like Jesus?

What is the ultimate goal of being a student of Jesus?

(Luke 6:40) What does it look like to be “conformed to the image of Christ” (Romans 8:29) in our daily lives?