



# ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH #2

GROW | GLOW | GO

Established 1870

Pastor John P. Williams

## *“The Cost of Discipleship”*

*Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32*

*“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*“Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you.” – Dallas Willard*

When we arrive in Luke 5 Jesus is still building his team of disciples that can assist him while carrying out his heavenly mission on Earth. He currently has Peter, Andrew, James, and John, but now he is about to call Matthew, or as Luke refers to him as Levi. Matthew is a Jew serving as a tax collector for the Roman government. He is a traitor and a thief in the eyes of his people. According to the standards of mankind he is probably the least likely candidate that should be selected. However, sometimes God calls the worst of us to show mankind that he has the power to save and use anybody.

### *Discipleship Requires us to Choose Christ*

Although God calls us into discipleship, we still have to make the choice to choose Him. Everyday God is calling us to follow after him, but the question is are we listening and will we adhere to the call. Matthew chose to be a follower of Christ rather than a counter of coins. Your fellowship will lead to your discipleship. Matthew’s decision to follow Christ means he was willing to completely alter his life to follow Jesus.

*A. Since Jesus chooses you despite your Past you should choose him despite your Present.*

### *Discipleship Requires us to forsake Carnality*

When Matthew chooses to follow Christ he also makes a decision to forsake the carnal things of this world. You cannot have the world and Jesus too. Matthew’s decision to choose Jesus leads him to forsake his family, finances, and his perverted future. In order to follow Christ, we must make a commitment to forsake the things of the world.

*B. You can not be Carnal and a Christian at the same time.*

### *Discipleship Requires Companionship*

Matthew does something unique compared to the other disciples when they chose to follow Christ. Matthew gives Jesus an invitation to his home. When we choose to follow Jesus, we need to make sure we invite him to our homes. Our discipleship should not be private, neither should it only be in the sanctuary. The people who we live with and are closer to should be able to experience Christ in and through our lives.

***C. Jesus desires us to invite him to our home and he wants us to share him with others.***

***Discipleship Requires us to handle Criticism***

Matthew's choice to forsake the world and to follow Jesus does not lead to a road of ease. Immediately after he accepts Christ and invites him to his home he faces criticism from the religious leaders of the day. They criticize him by reminding Jesus of who he used to be and his past life. Our commitment to follow Jesus will lead to others criticizing the decision we have made.

***D. If we make a choice to stand up for Christ, he will stand up for us.***