

# welcome to the ekklesia fellowship!

mdmlt hvhy  
**Talmidim of Yeshua**  
January 22, 2006

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- Western teaching: philosopher – student
  - Socrates—Plato—Aristotle
- Primarily knowledge-based – I want to *know* what you *know*
- Eastern teaching: rabbi – disciple (*talmid*)
  - Primarily relationship-based – I want to *be like* you
- 1. **Rabbi** – literally, “my great one,” hence, “teacher.”
  - In Jesus’ time there were two main types of *Rabbis*:
    - A. **Torah teachers (torah – “the way”)**
      - Allowed to teach only what the community accepted as correct
      - **Authority only by tradition**
    - B. **Rabbis with S’mikhah**
      - Master teachers
      - Masters of *tanakh* (basically the Old Testament)
      - Absolutely brilliant – had to know the entire OT from memory.

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- B. **Rabbis with S’mikhah (cont.)**
  - Authority to teach “new interpretations” (*chiddushim*)
    - **Matthew 5:22,28,32,34,39,44, etc...**
  - Did Jesus have *s’mikhah*?
    - Moses – **Numbers 11:16-17; 27:18-23**
    - **Matthew 7:28,29** – *s’mikhah*, not a *Torah* teacher!
    - **Matthew 21:23-27** – who gave you *s’mikhah*?
    - **Matthew 9:6-8** – forgiveness of sin, the highest authority.
    - **John 1:32-34 & Mark 1:10-11** – This is My Son, listen to Him!
    - Jesus received *s’mikhah* directly from His Father!
  - **Only *s’mikhah* rabbis chose disciples (*talmidim*)**

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- 2. **Talmidim** – disciples
  - A. **Beth Sefer** (ages 5 – 10)
    1. Hebrew children typically began their study at age 4 or 5
    2. The teaching focused primarily on the *Torah* (Law), emphasizing both reading and writing Scripture.
    3. Large portions were memorized and it is likely that many students knew the entire *Torah* by memory by the time this level of education was finished.
    4. At this point most students (and certainly the girls) stayed at home to help with the family and in the case of boys to learn the family trade.
    5. The best of these would then move on to the next phase of study, while continuing in the family trade.

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- **Beth Talmud** (ages 10 – 15)
  1. The best of the best would continue their study with the Prophets (*Nevi'im*) and the Writings (*Ketuvim*) in addition to *Torah* (Law).
  2. They began to learn the interpretations of the Oral *Torah* and how to make their own applications and interpretations.
  3. Memorization continued to be important because most people did not have their own copy of the Scripture.
  4. The very best of the best would have the entire *TaNakh* (Genesis – Malachi) memorized.
  5. Very few of the most outstanding would then enter into the next phase.

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- **Beth Midrash** (ages 15 – 30)
  1. A *S’mikhah Rabbi* would then scrutinizing the best of the best of the best to see if they had what it took to carry the rabbi’s yoke.
    - The rabbi’s “yoke” was his set of interpretations (*chiddushim*).
    - Can this kid spread my yoke, does this kid have what it takes to be like me?
    - **Matthew 11:29** – “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart;”
  2. Now, if the rabbi thought the kid could do it, that he had what it took, he would say, “come, follow me.”
    - He would then leave his family and friends and would devote his entire life to being like his rabbi.
    - Learning what he knew, so he could do what he did, so that he could be like him in every way.
    - **Mark 1:17** – “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- **What then is a talmid?**
  1. Not just a student who wants to know what the teacher knows.
  2. The relationship between the Rabbi and the *talmid* was very close.
  3. Not only did the *talmid* learn facts and reasoning processes, but the *talmid* walked with his rabbi in order **to be like his rabbi in every way!**
    - **Mark 3:14** – “that they might be with Him”
  4. This desire was a consuming fire and a passion deep down within him.
    - **Matthew 14:29-31** – Peter wanted to be like his Rabbi!

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- **So what?**
  - Jesus picked the ordinary – those who didn't have what it took in the eyes of the religious – to do extraordinary things through.
  - Have you ever felt like you just couldn't do this? Like you just didn't have what it took to live a life in Christ?
  - He believes that we have what it takes to carry His yoke and to be with Him as *talmidim*.
    - **John 15:16** – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you,”
    - He has faith *in me, and in you!*
  - Jesus picked you and me to carry out His authority on earth:
    - **Matthew 28:18-20**
    - He gave us His *s'mikhah!* (**2 Cor. 5:20**)

## Talmidim of Yeshua

- **Now what?**
  - I've spent my entire “Christian life” at the feet of Jesus as a teacher – a philosopher, wanting to know what He taught.
  - But He has called me to *take his yoke* and to *follow Him*.
  - I want this more than anything in world.
  - How about you? How badly do you want it?