

I left for vacation on Sunday, June 25. That afternoon, we drove to Mankato for Malachi's last soccer game (which they won) and then to a hotel in Bloomington, MN that evening. At 6:30 AM on Monday we boarded a Sun Country flight to Seattle. Before I left on Sunday, I wrote this message on my white board outside my office, "*Out for the count. See you on July 7.*" But these details are not the reason for this article, rather it is what Malachi wrote on my board just over my vacation message. He wrote, "*We are Jesus disciples 😊*"

Yes, we are.

Here I am, focused on a little R and R and Malachi is reminding me of the sermon I preached that morning. We ARE Jesus' disciples, whether we are home or at work or in the grocery store or on vacation. We do not take breaks or vacations from what we have been called to in Jesus. And believe me, I never intended to stop being a Christian or a pastor or a disciple while on vacation, but when we get out of our typical daily and/or weekly routine, it is easy to forget who you really are.

I AM a disciple of Jesus Christ, and through faith in him, so are you. Wear that "badge" proudly. Never apologize for who you are. Never stop living out loud. Being a disciple is a life-long (I won't say "commitment") JOY. Be who you are here and there and everywhere. To God be all glory, ALWAYS and forever, Amen.