

The Dynamics of Discipleship

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Part 2

I. What is a disciple?

A. A disciple is a learner; therefore perpetuate the learning process both in your life and that of your disciples.

B. A disciple is a follower; therefore make sure you are provide the right models they are going to follow you. The question is: “are you following Christ?”

C. A disciple is a reproducer - therefore be careful how you build because you are going to have to live with your product.

II. What is the biblical basis for discipleship and for making disciples?

A. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. The Great Commission was recorded five times in the New Testament.

a) He gave it in his last days.

b) Last words are important words.

2. He was preparing them for the battle ahead.

B. The Men (Matthew 28:16-18)

1. The appointed place (Matthew 28:16)

a) He was talking to a group of obedient disciples.

b) Why Galilee? To give them time to think and reflect.

2. The prevailing mood. (Matthew 28:17)

a) Dual mood.

1) Some worshiped

2) Some doubted

b) Why the dual mood?

1) Some were focusing their attention on Jesus, which always leads to worship.

2) Some of them were focusing on themselves, which always results in frustration.

c) One of the great problems with many Christians is that they have never come to grips with the fact that their need is not partial - it is total.

d) One of the hardest lessons in Christian experience to learn is Jesus' statement, "without Me you can do nothing."

e) The secret of the Christian life and service is not what you do for God - it is what God does in and through you. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

3. The disciples have just come off their greatest failure and Jesus then tells them to go take the world. (Matthew 28:18)

a) What staggering confidences in His ability to work through them.

b) God could have used far more efficient means than using you and me.

c) All authority is in His hands and He said Go.

C. The Method (Matthew 28:19-20)

1. The Process (Matthew 28:19)

a) One main verb in this verse, that verb is "make disciples."

b) "Go" Should be translated "as you go" or "having gone."

1) Involves a process

2) May be either a long or short period of time.

3) I hope that God will deliver you from being a hustler of souls.

4) Wherever there are people - that is where we are to go.

c) Baptizing

1) Involves a crisis.

2) Has to do with the moment that they are saved.

3) Your task is not only to go and confront men with the Gospel of the grace of God, but it is also to bring them to a point of commitment to Jesus Christ where they enter into the Christian life.

c) Teaching

1) Involves a process.

2) As long as you are a Christian, you are in the process of being taught to all things that Jesus Christ commanded.

3) You are to teach people to observe these. Not simply know them, but experience them.

d) All Christian organizations have gotten out of balance; evangelism and education should be balanced.

2. The Promise (Matthew 28:20)

a) The promise, “I will be with you always”

b) The promise is linked with a process; as long as you are going, baptizing and teaching you can be positive that Jesus Christ is with you.

c) The commissioner is far more important than the commission.

D. Implementation of the Great Commission. (2 Timothy 2:2)

1. Ministry of multiplication.

2. Every time you engage in the process of making disciples you are launching a process that ideally will never end.

3. If you build heresy into a life it will be around a long time.

4. The process of discipleship can allow us to reach more people faster than preaching.

5. Laymen have a much better platform to lead others to Christ because they are not “professionals”

6. God called you to make disciples, and no matter what else you are, or are not doing, if you are not making disciples you are not doing what Jesus Christ commanded you to do.