

Introduction:

- What does it mean to be a disciple? Questions for evaluation? Because most Americans would consider themselves Christian out of heritage, or having gone to church, etc.
 - Am I really a disciple of Christ? A Christian? What is a disciple?
 - How serious of a disciple am I? What is required of a disciple?
 - As a disciple, am I influencing others to follow Christ?
- "Jesus called out to them, *"Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"*" (Matthew 4:19, NLT) When the disciples were first recruited Jesus they were told they would learn to fish for men.
- *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*" (Matthew 28:19-20, NLT) As the disciples were saying, "See you later" to Jesus, He told them to go and make disciples.
- So we fish for men in order to make disciples. So what is it exactly that we are trying to make? We are working to lead people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and help them take on His life by living according to His Word. As a Christian it is what we are trying to do, ourselves.

I. What Was Jesus Talking About?

- A. Follow me - Gr. *deute opiso* the first word is an imperative which makes it a command. The second word means to follow closely after, observe, watch carefully. It demands full commitment.
- B. *"I will make"* speaks of the powerful transformations that will take place as you look closely at the Master.
- C. So a disciple was two things:
 1. They are a follower of Jesus. *akoloutheo*--simply means to follow. When used of a specific person it has profound change in definition: "a call to decisive and intimate discipleship of Jesus." It points to the beginning place of discipleship. (Mt 8:22, 9:9, 19:21, Jn 1:43, 21:9-ff, Mk 1:16-ff.) Invitations by Jesus to follow.
 2. They learn and live his ways. *Mathetes*--this speaks of person who answers the call to follow and indicated an attachment to the person being followed. They are followers, students, learners of a certain teacher. *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* Jn 8:31-32 NKJV

II. Definitions - determine our expectations and what we want to communicate to people.

- A. **Disciple** - is a person who has put his faith in Jesus Christ, is committed to governing his life by Jesus teaching, and passionately pursues Jesus mandate as his own personal mission.
- B. **Discipleship** - is the process of growth and transformation that takes place in the disciple making him a productive individual in the Kingdom of God both in character and in the making of other disciples.
- C. **Discipler** - is a person who understands the importance of making disciples and intentionally enters into relationships with other disciples teaching them to obey the commands of Jesus and equipping them to teach and make disciples of others as well.
- D. **Discipling** - "Discipling is an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ.

This includes teaching the disciple to teach others as well." Greg Ogden - *Discipleship Essentials*, p.17

- E. Tim Franklin Translation: **Mt. 28:18,19,20** "As you go (wherever and however you go in the course of your lives), (I am commanding you to) MAKE DISCIPLES of all peoples (of every race), baptizing them (those who believe) in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (to be obedient to) all that I have commanded you; and, yea I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
1. Restoration in our lives has to do with us doing that well.
 2. The last words of Jesus to those He was entrusting the Kingdom to, was to MAKE DISCIPLES!

III. What Does It Take To Make a Disciple? Four Things:

- A. The Presence of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Means we must pray. Mt. 17:21; Mark 9:29
 2. Mt. 28:20 *I am with you always*
 3. Nature of the Holy Spirit - John chapters 14-16 - teacher, comforter, guide, convicter. The Holy Spirit brings the supernaturalness of discipling alive and empowers both teacher and student. This accelerates growth.
- B. Truth
 1. The disciple must encounter the unchanging reality of God's word.
 2. Truth will bring stability.
- C. Transparent relationship
 1. Relationship removes the barrier that we must do it on our own.
 2. Promotes friendship and deeper relationships.
 3. Graham Cooke - the household of faith is to be a relational community of friends exploring the nature of God together.
- D. Accountability
 1. It establishes in the beginning of discipling the "we agree to do and be" process.
 2. Addresses mutual expectations.

IV. What Must the Disciple Have To Make Disciples?

- A. Mission must be emblazoned on the soul. Mt 9:19 Jesus followed (akaloutheo) the man and His disciples followed (Mathetes) Him.
 1. Mission gives us purpose
 2. Purpose gives us cause for action
 3. Part of our definition of discipleship – "to passionately follow Jesus mandate of making disciples."
 4. Paul was going all the way to Caesar!
 - a) *When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome. Act 19:21*
 - b) *"But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.""* (Acts 23:11, NKJV)

- B. Go - Grk.=means to set in motion. What is being set in motion? The making of disciples. This means you are to start the process of making disciples. We must go to them. They are not to come to you. It implies movement.
1. The 'going' is tightly connected to the mission.
 2. Jesus looks for laborers to send into the fields that are white for harvest. Luke 10:2
 3. Where ever you go, as you go, when you go, ...make disciples.
- C. Must teach – means you must have a grasp of the truth. Not just understanding but the ability to impart it.
1. Knowledge is important. Knowing the heart of the Father.
 - a) God - loves us. Process what that looks like. Love unlocks the heart. Ie. "I am not worthy of saving, loving," "You dont' know what I have done"
 - b) Man - has a sin issue that separates us from God and he cant remedy it. He needs a savior. "I am basically a good person."
 - c) Jesus - is our savior. God loved so much that he sent his son.
 - d) Grace-he is a free gift we do not deserve. "I don't deserve to be forgiven."
 - e) Faith-You receive the gift of salvation by faith.
 2. Must also be lived out in front of the disciple. 1 Thess 2:8-9 *So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.* NKJV
- D. Able to lead the disciple to a place of relational vulnerability.
1. Disciple must experience more than just the spiritual side of life. Mark 3:14
 2. Disciple needs to see the disciples in all different aspects of life.
 3. Disciplers life must be visible and accessible.
- E. Accountability - holding the disciple to what he has agreed to.
1. Provides periodic growth assessment.
 - a) Jn 6:67 *Are you also going to leave?* He was challenging their commitment in light of opposition.
 - b) They see Jesus rebuke Pharisees and embrace prostitutes and tax collectors.
 - c) They are closer to Jesus than any others.
 2. Seeing life in light of the discipler's presence.

Conclusion:

- Challenges
 - Learning to live the Gospel as a distinct people who are no longer at the cultural center.
 - Falling back on programs and not people who make disciples. We are building men & women the multitudes will follow.
 - Internalizing.