

3-22-21 Matthew 28:16-20

-I have a very simple question, what is the purpose of the church?

-What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of Christ, sounds easy right? "I'm a disciple, I follow Christ, story over, right? If you've got that down we are done for the day, enjoy the rest of your Sunday. Your dismissed. No no no, it's not quite that easy is it?

-To be a disciple of Christ its going to cost you. You will have to fight against the temptations of this world, fight your flesh. You will go through trials; you're going to be put to the fire. As a disciple you will suffer, you will go through somethings that are going to suck! You will be humiliated, mocked and made fun of. You may be the only one in your family who believes leaving you lonely.

-A disciple must be totally devoted to their teacher. A disciple must do all they can to emulate their teacher's life.

-To be a follower you must love God more than anything! That is right, more then anything! More than our kids, "whoa now paster, you're walking on thin ice. I love my kids more then anything!" Well, He gave them to us, so if you wanna keep them, love Him first. More than anything, yes more than our significant others. How many disagreements (b/c as Christians we don't fight, right) have you and your spouse had. Looking back which one of you turned their focus off God, probably both at some point or another. If we love Him more then He will take care of our relationships. He loves us more than anything, so why can't we love Him more than anything? "But that's easy He's God" you say. And that is right, but I know for a fact that I do not always make it easy for Him.

-How many parents are in the room or watching from home? If your kids no matter how old they are, are watching with you right now they may want to plug their ears or look away for my next couple questions. This is to keep the wholesome wonderful thoughts they have about you in tack. (My boys pay attention). How many of you parents love your kids?... So now honestly how many of you would liked to have strangled them sweet little children at some point or another? Its hard when they don't listen. Although when they come back after the fact and say that I was right, and they should have listened is about one of the best feelings I have ever had!

-But we don't stop loving them, and neither does God stop loving us.

-So as disciples we are to follow and listen to Jesus.

-As a disciple Gods goal for us is to reflect Christ in our lives. We are to imitate the life of Christ as closely as we can to bring glory to God.

-Luke 6:40 is part of a parable that Jesus is telling the disciples and it says "The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like the teacher"

-So how do we imitate Christ? By reading scripture spending time in God's word, obeying what Jesus says, praying without ceasing, serving others Jesus came as a servant and expects the same from us, and finally love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

-So, if we are doing those things, we are disciples right? Don't go around saying you're a follower if you don't have the desire for God to do a new work in your life, or if you're deliberately living in sin, or if you follow Him on Sunday and follow your flesh the rest of the week.

-To be a disciple you must make Jesus everything or He may as well be nothing!

-Luke 14:25-26 says, Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said; "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters yes even their own life, such a person can not be my disciple."

-First off that seems like a real hard thing to do sense we are commanded to love our neighbor, and our enemy but we have to hate our family. You may have some family that you already hate so now you have Jesus' permission. No! The word hate used here is the same word used in many other places in the bible and it translates more to unloved or loved less. So, Jesus is telling them that they have to love everyone else less then they love Him. So, no you don't have permission to hate anyone.

-So today we are going to look at what the bible says about being a disciple and making disciples.

Please stand Matthew 28:16-20

Today we will look at 3 things that Jesus tells us as disciples to do.

1. Jesus says to Go
2. Jesus says to make
3. Jesus says to teach

-I would say that a lot of us have heard the great commission before. We know it, we memorize it, we have studies on it, sometimes we even learn it in other languages. I haven't I have a hard enough time with my own language let alone any other ones.

-I heard it put this way. As a father I want to teach my boys things, but sometimes there are things that I just want them to do. For example, this last week I told my middle son Gavin I said, "Gavin you really need to clean your room and your bathroom, they are a mess." And that is exactly what I wanted him to go do. I did not want him to come up to me a few hours later and say hey I memorized what you said. You said, "Gavin you really need to clean your room and your bathroom, they are a mess." And I can say it in Greek. And a couple kids from the youth are coming over later to do a study on what it would look like if I cleaned my room and bathroom.

-That is not what I expected to happen. Just b/c we know what He says doesn't mean we do it. Its like the old game Simon says. How many of you have played that game before?.... Its easy right "Simon says stand on one foot" so you stand on one foot. So, tell me if we can handle that which

holds no bearing on anything, why it when Jesus says we can't seem to understand what He expects?

-Ask your self this, when I stand before God will he be more excited b/c I knew it or b/c I lived it?

The great commission is often looked at like we must win converts but in reality, its more about making disciples. What's the difference you ask, let's see.

-We all start out as converts, and there is nothing at all wrong with being a convert. Its like starting life as a baby. We don't just wake up one day as a 38 yr old, with a mortgage and a bald spot. No, we start out needing help and guidance.

-A disciple is who we become when we grow up in Christ. A convert is like a Jesus cheerleader, excited from the sidelines. A disciple how ever is someone willing to step out on the field and work for Christ.

-So, if that is all cleared up, we'll move on.

V16 In this gospel important things happen on the mountains, Sermon on the mount, the last temptation, the transfiguration. The disciples knew that there was something important going to happen. In those days it was not the custom for women to tell men what to do but don't forget who told the disciples where to meet Jesus. This shows us something too, God will use the uncommon and the unchosen, to do His work.

-This would take faith on the Mary's part to go and tell the disciples what to do, this was a leap of faith for all involved.

V17 This is the first time the eleven have been together sense they abandoned Jesus at the cross, they have heard that Jesus is alive, but they saw him crucified and buried. Can you imagine what could have been going through their minds as they climbed the mountain?

-We know what they did and I'm sure we understand the first part, says they worshiped Him. Good Friday seemed to be the end. Seeing Him confirmed that He is the Messiah and has power over death.

-But what about them doubting? They wanted to see Him alive but knowing that He died they are hesitant to believe their own eyes. Jesus said, "If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if one rises from the dead" And here are the disciples struggling with a hint of doubt.

-Doubt is enough to hinder our plans, if we let doubt into our lives we will fail. Often times we feel like we do not have the ability to do what God is asking us to do. To God our ability is less important than our availability.

V18 Satan took Jesus up to a very high mountain once and offered Him all the kingdoms of the world if He would just fall down and worship him. Jesus obviously refused. And now here He is letting them know that He received all that the devil tried to offer and heaven. This temptation

from Satan is no different for us. He will lie, cheat and destroy all that he can. Our faithfulness to Christ will gain us more than the devil could ever offer.

-Many times Jesus was asked, mocked and prophesied about Him being the King of the Jews. Now He establishes His authority over not only earth but heaven too, so Jesus has the right to command obedience.

V19 This is our first point.

- **Jesus says GO**, of all nations. The word used is ethne and usually translates nations but in Greek it is used for gentiles as well.

-In chapter 10 5-6 Jesus tells the disciples not to go among the gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. And to focus on the lost sheep of Israel first. Gladly now He opens up and expands this mission to include the gentiles.

- **Jesus says MAKE DISCIPLES**, today we have so many excuses why we did not take an opportunity to spread the gospel.

1. It did not seem like the right time.... So, it did not seem like the right time to try and save another living soul from eternal damnation? Tell me when is the right time, when it is easy or convenient for you?

2. I didn't know how they would take me telling them about God... How many of you have or have had teenagers? You never know how they are going to take the things we as parents tell them. One time they be understanding and then other times they erupt like a volcano. But that doesn't change that we have to tell them what is best for them right? Well, it is the same for the people who don't know God. It doesn't really matter how they take it they need to know either way. And another thing is how they react is not on you, that is between them and God, what is on you is if you do not obey God and skip out on the work, He is pressing you to do. I would rather get fussed, cussed, or disgusted at by someone I that attempted to share the gospel with than to stand in front of my heavenly father and have to explain why I didn't even try.

3. I don't know what to say.... Well, who's fault is that? If you don't know what to say maybe you're not spending enough time in His word! God tells us that He will prepare us and provide all that we need to do His work.

- Look we all have fallen short of what God expects from us, I just don't want to do what Simon says and not put as much effort into what Jesus says.

- **Jesus says BAPTIZE**, Baptizing does not save you, it does not get you into heaven. But when there is a change in your life as big as your salvation baptism is how we show that inward change to those around us.

V20 - Jesus says TEACH, So the purpose of the church is to make disciples, we got that. Once we lead people to make that initial decision we are not done. We are not car salesman right. We have more work to do once they buy in. I like the way the CSB translates it better than my NIV. It says teach them to observe everything I have commanded you.

- So those people we help lead to Christ should be able to watch us, as we follow Christ. They should be able follow us as we follow Christ, and they would be ok. That doesn't mean I want people following me because I will let them down sometime or another or both times. But I need to live a life that resembles what Jesus taught me to be like.

- We also need to be careful what we teach. There can be a fine line between God's word and my opinion. I do my very best to tell you that this is my opinion if it is not clearly spelled out in scripture. I would never want my opinion to be something that could change the outcome of someone else's eternity. So, we need to stick to teaching and living the commands that God set for us.

-Jesus began His ministry by teaching the sermon on the mount, now He is commissions us to carry on teaching. Teaching is often time's a slow and difficult process. We should find joy in small steps, and trust that God will finish His work.

-How many times have you heard someone say do as I say not as I do? This is a horrible mentality for a Christian to have. We must emphasize the importance of obeying God's commands. We cannot just teach them what it says without any application. If God says GO..... we GO. Why? Because we love Him, want to serve and obey Him. Understanding that everything that He allows to happen is for our good. Why would we not GO?

- In the beginning of this gospel we are told about a woman who is pregnant, and they will call Him Immanuel. This name translates to God with us. Now Jesus is promising to be with us always and to the end of the age. So, from the beginning to the end, we can be sure that we have and always will be in the presence of Jesus.

- This last Tuesday at youth one of them asked how long eternity was, and it was difficult to give him an answer that sufficed his question. Mostly b/c he is a teenager and no matter what you tell them, they have 6 more questions. But here it says to the end of the age, this gets us to a time where time has become meaningless.

-So, if today you are not sure where you will spend eternity, or if you are better at doing what Simon says then you are at doing what Jesus says. Then today is the day that you get to know Jesus on a deeper level. Or maybe you know Jesus, but you just don't know how to MAKE disciples, come ask Jesus to help you, to teach you. Let's be a church full of people who do what Jesus says.

