

FOR THE BOOKLET DISCUSSED IN THIS MSG CLICK [HERE](#)

Last msg - we **touched briefly** on - the **Life** of **Jesus The Messiah**
& I **begged you** to **get to KNOW** Jesus - **IN the Gospels**

Because the **Incarnation** - **Life** - **Sacrificial Death** - & **Resurrection**
of **Jesus Christ** is the **Absolute FULCRUM** of Human **History**

I did all I could (in 1 msg) to **INSPIRE** you to **READ** the **Gospels**
& **ABSORB** the **Life** of **Jesus Christ**

I **Recommended** a book called **THE STORY** - which is the **FOUR**
Gospels put together in a **super-easy** 'readable' **format**

& we **gave** you **ALL** the books we **had** last week - (**More Coming**)

In that msg **we said** - Jesus was the **Culmination** - the **Fulfillment** -
The **Epi-Center** of **God's Plan of Redemption** for Mankind

Jesus Christ came to **SAVE US** from an **Otherwise**
Unconquerable Eternal Enemy - **SIN !!**

The **Great Reconciliation** between a **HOLY God** & **SINFUL Man** -
was **Fully Accomplished** in the **Life, Death, Resurrection** of Jesus

AND - He **Also Came** to **Transform** us - **IN THIS Life** -
By **Giving US** - **HIS OWN Life**, & **HIS OWN Power** to **Live in Us**

& we **MUST** make a **CONNECTION** **Between** those **two things**

**Jesus Christ Came - as The Fulfillment Of God's Plan
to Redeem us from Sin - & Restore us to God**

& **HE ALSO Gave us HIS LIFE - AND the POWER of His Holy Spirit -
Right Now - For the Remainder of Our Lives HERE**

**WHAT is the CONNECTION - between Jesus COMING to SAVE Us
AND - Jesus Giving us HIS Life & HIS Power - Right Now ??**

**WHAT is the CONNECTION - between US Being SAVED
& God's Plan of Redemption ??**

**After we were Saved By Faith - WHY Did Jesus
give us HIS LIFE, & HIS POWER for our lives here**

**WHY GOD?? - WHY did you SAVE me thru Faith in Jesus - & THEN
Transform me - By Giving Me YOUR Life & YOUR Power?**

Is it for **MY OWN GOOD LORD** ??

Is it for **MY OWN BENEFIT** ??

Is it for **ALL THE BLESSINGS YOU WANT TO GIVE ME** ??

**Do I have the Life of Jesus Christ & the Power of the Holy Spirit
FOR MY OWN BENEFIT & BLESSING ??**

Pls take a Min to ANSWER this Question . . .

If **you've** put your **Faith in Jesus** - - **Been SAVED** from your **Sin**
& **Been** Given **HIS Life** & **HIS Power** to **Transform** you . . .

IS IT FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT ???

**& If the Life & Power of Jesus Christ LIVING inside You
is NOT For YOUR OWN Benefit - Then WHO is it for?**

There are TWO Correct Answers to that Question

#1) for God - to Enable us to DO what He has Called us to DO

#2) for Other People - As we Do Our Part in the Great Commission

**If you are SAVED Today - You've been Given the Life of Christ
& the Power of the Holy Spirit . . .**

To ENABLE YOU to JOIN GOD is His Great Plan of Redemption

**& YOUR PART in God's Plan of Redemption
Is Called - The Great Commission**

**One of the MANY things that absolutely Blow My Mind about God
is How INDIVIDUAL He is**

He CREATED you - INDIVIDUALLY

He KNOWS you - INDIVIDUALLY - (since your Mother's Womb)

He SAVED you - INDIVIDUALLY

God Started Mankind w/ an INDIVIDUAL - Adam

He could've started with a Million as easy as with One

God Started his Plan of Redemption w/ an INDIVIDUAL- Abraham

& When God Revealed himself to YOU

He came to you INDIVIDUALLY!

God saves people - INDIVIDUALLY - ONE at a TIME !!!

HOW ?? - - HOW does God DO THIS ??

Most Often - God Comes to an INDIVIDUAL - thru an INDIVIDUAL

**MEANING - God USES INDIVIDUALS - who've Been
TRANSFORMED by His Life & Power . . .**

To bring the Good News of Salvation to OTHER INDIVIDUALS

THAT is what the Book of ACTS is about

INDIVIDUALS Who've been Transformed by the Life of Jesus Christ
Bringing the Good News of Salvation - to other INDIVIDUALS

**Dave, Dave, Dave - You're KILLING ME with this Word INDIVIDUAL
You've said it SO MANY Times - it's RINGING in My HEAD !!!**

EXACTLY !!

Because The GREAT COMMISSION is about YOU - INDIVIDUALLY

**HERE is a SELF-FOCUS SHOCKER . . .
God DID NOT Save You - for YOUR OWN Benefit!!**

You & I were SAVED:

#1) For God's Glory

#2) To be PART of God's Plan of Redemption

**YES - there are Wonderful, Eternal, Indescribable Benefits
to us Personally - for making Jesus our Savior & Lord**

But those Benefits COME - AS We are JOINING HIM - IN HIS WORK
& HIS WORK is SUMMED UP - in the Great Commission

**So - If you are Saved Today - When we read the Great Commission
WILL You receive it - INDIVIDUALLY ??**

**THIS is the Last Command you Personally Received
from your Commander in Chief**

**If you belong to Jesus - THESE are the
All-Encompassing Marching Orders from your LORD**

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

***19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

The LAST Command - The All-Encompassing Marching Order
is for YOU - INDIVIDUALLY - to BE MAKING DISCIPLES !!!

Now - For SOME of US that Statement seems RADICAL

That God has called YOU - Personally - to BE MAKING DISCIPLES
It may SEEM Radical . . . But it IS Absolutely TRUE

Jesus Commanded His DISCIPLES - to BE Making DISCIPLES

**& The only way you GET OUT of this Command
is to NOT BE a DISCIPLE**

Biblically - A Disciple is a FOLLOWER of Jesus Christ

**& if you ARE a FOLLOWER of Jesus Christ - He has
Commissioned you - to be involved in Making OTHER Followers**

& You CAN BE - You SHOULD BE
& WE - As a CHURCH - WE MUST BE !!

Let's Pray

Let's Review WHAT a Disciple IS:

In its simplest form - a Disciple is - A LEARNER & A FOLLOWER
One who is Learning from, & Following, another

The two words used in the N.T. for Disciples

One means "*To Learn*" - used 300 times

One means "*To Follow*" - used 90 times

& so - The Simplest Definition is:

"One who is learning from and following Jesus"

& so - the PROCESS of MAKING DISCIPLES - MEANS (most simply)
*SHARING about Jesus Christ with others,
& HELPING Them FOLLOW Him*

The Definition we use in our Mission Statement here is:

*We are Committed to helping one another become
Fully Devoted Reproducing Followers of Jesus Christ*

Being a Disciple - is FOLLOWING Jesus

Making Disciples - is helping others FOLLOW Jesus

Sounds SIMPLE Enough - Right?

But 1 of My Favorite Sayings is: *"It's SIMPLE, But it's NOT EASY"*

If you've been here awhile - you've heard this story -
please hear it again - to continue to grasp the significance

In the 2nd half of 2008 - the Elders of this church met regularly for
6 mo's - to evaluate the good & bad of how things were going

We looked very closely at what we were Actually doing - Compared
to what Jesus - Our Commander - had Called us to do

& we kept coming up with a Very Concerning Discrepancy

We could NOT Easily Define (point to) WHERE, HOW, & even IF
We were Purposefully Making Disciples

We were GIVING OUR LIVES for the Lord in this Ministry

But Still - we could NOT Clearly POINT to Exactly WHERE
& Exactly HOW - we were Making Disciples

& it FREAKED ME OUT !!

At that Time it had been 7 HARD YEARS of Ministry here

In the Strength of the Lord we had faced numerous
Direct Attacks of the Enemy to Destroy this church

By God's Grace we had survived - But were we MAKING Disciples?
. . . It wasn't clear enough - we couldn't Tell For Sure

& So - I FREAKED OUT - & I probably OVER-REACTED a bit

In JAN 2009 - I called a huge meeting
of 70 leaders & key people in this ministry

& I shared with them - with possibly a bit too much INTENSITY

that we were either going to Start Clearly & Purposefully
Making Disciples - Or we were going to shut the church down

& I really thought that Decision & Commitment
would be Strongly Supported as Biblical, Godly Leadership

Instead - in 6 mo's - ONE-THIRD of our PEOPLE
& ONE-THIRD of our INCOME - Had DISAPPEARED

In my Intensity - I certainly MISHANDLED that REFOCUS - & for a
time I thought we really were gonna SHUT the church down

But it was NOT ONLY my mishandling of our
TOTAL REFOCUS on Making Disciples

Our Spiritual Enemy (already trying hard to kill this church)

Seemed to have a REAL PROBLEM with us
Recommitting (With Intensity) to BE MAKING DISCIPLES

& that Spiritual Enemy inspired another
large scale attack on the church - AGAIN from the inside

& BTW - in OUR church culture almost ALL major enemy attacks
on the church - come from the INSIDE

Remember that - the next time someone starts feeding you POISON
that would turn you against the church (*attacks from inside*)

But - No Matter What - We HELD ON
to our RENEWED Commitment to Make Disciples

& TODAY - 4 years later - I can easily point - to area after area -
where Disciples are truly being MADE on a Regular Basis !!!

THIS church is BECOMING a Disciple-Making Ministry -
An Environment where Disciples are Making Disciples

EVERY day of the week I can point you to a group in this church
that is Truly & Purposefully Making Disciples

& I'm SO GRATEFUL - for Every Person GOD has brought to Nuevo

to JOIN US in our All-Encompassing Commitment -
to OBEY the Lord's COMMAND - to BE MAKING DISCIPLES

Thank you ALL - Very Much !!

Now - If some (or all) of that is New to you - Let me help you
CATCH UP to WHERE the Lord has Brought us

In your Bulletin is a booklet called "WHY DISCIPLESHIP"

This is a rough version of my Teaching Notes
from a message in JUNE 2009 (*my actual notes*)

We made this Re-Focus Commitment in JAN 2009

& it took till the first of June for the Enemy to Stir up TROUBLE
over this CRAZY Idea of a church actually
FOLLOWING the Great Commission

This Message I taught in the spirit of **2Cor 2:11** which says - ***so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs (schemes).***

I'd **really encourage** you to **READ** that **Booklet**
& **Listen** to that message - "**WHY DISCIPLESHIP**"

The **Audio Message** - **AND** the **Booklet** - are **BOTH** on the
PHONE APP - search **wordbymail** - Look in '**Topical**' Msg's

& **on** the **WBM website** - in the **search** box - "**Why Discipleship**"

& if you **really want** to **grasp** what **God** is **teaching us** about
JOINING Him in the **Great Commission**

Ask Pam at **W-B-M** for the set of **EIGHT Individual Messages**
we've **done** on **DISCIPLESHIP** (*not a series - 8 indiv msgs*)

Alright - **There's** the **BACKGROUND** for **US** *personally* as a Church

Now **let's read** those **Vs's Again** - & **BREAK them Down**

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) → → →

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18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

Jesus begins with an All-Powerful Statement - *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

This is the FOUNDATION for the Great Commission

**JESUS, Who has ALL AUTHORITY in Heaven & on Earth -
Has GIVEN US this COMMISSION - to BE Making Disciples**

**That should give you CONFIDENCE that you’re IN the Will of God -
When we’re INVOLVED in helping others FOLLOW JESUS**

**& remember - This is the King of Kings who GAVE His LIFE for you -
Who wants to USE YOU - to GIVE others New Life**

**& The Lord of Heaven & Earth - SAYS - THEREFORE
BECAUSE of WHO I AM . . .**

GO THEREFORE - & Make Disciples of All Nations

**Because ALL have Sinned - & are UNDER the Judgment of God
Because I CAME to Give them the ONLY WAY of Salvation**

**GO THEREFORE - & Make LEARNERS & FOLLOWERS
TELL them ABOUT ME - & HELP Them FOLLOW ME**

The TENSE here in the Original Language is
AS YOU ARE GOING - Be Making Disciples

MAYBE you're going to AFRICA - to the Ends of the Earth
MAYBE you're Going to WORK down the 91 Freeway
MAYBE you're going HOME where your family is at

AS YOU ARE GOING - Jesus Says - Be Making Disciples !!
TELL Them ABOUT ME - & HELP Them FOLLOW ME

Our Salvation is NOT for Our Benefit ONLY
It's for the BENEFIT of the people God Puts IN FRONT of US !!

Whether that's on the OTHER END of the EARTH
The Other End of the FREEWAY - Or
The Other End of the DINNER TABLE

& then - V.19 says - AS you are Making Followers of Jesus . . .

BAPTIZE THEM in the Name of the FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT

The 1st Order of Obedience for a Believer - is to Be BAPTIZED

BAPTISM is an OUTWARD SIGN of an INWARD MIRACLE

When a Believer puts their Full Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior/Lord
What Jesus Accomplished - becomes OURS - THRU Identification

BY FAITH we are Identified with the Death / Burial / Resurrection
of Jesus - & His VICTORY over Sin & Death - Becomes OURS

& in BAPTISM we PUT ON DISPLAY that Identification

Baptism says to the World - I have **become Identified**
with **Jesus Christ** - **AND** with **His Body** - **The Church**

PLUS - there **MIGHT** be a little bit of a **Word-Play** here

The **GRK word** for **Baptism** - is **BAPTIZO** - which **means**
to **IMMERSE** to **bring on** a **Permanent Change**

& in **the Bible** - "**THE NAME**" means
according to the **Character & Nature** of a person

& so - **using those definitions** - there **may also be** the **idea**
of **IMMERSING** a **Disciple** in the **Character & Nature**
of the **Father, Son, & Spirit** (*which is cool*)

& **then** - in **V.20** - were **called** to **help those Disciples**
OBSERVE all that **Jesus commanded** us

ALL that Jesus Commanded us - is FOUND in the N.T.

- * The **Gospels & Acts** are the **Historical** Accounts
- * The **General Epistles** are written to **Help** the **first churches** &
believers thru the **SAME problems** we have today
- * The **Pastoral Epistles** are written to Help **church Leaders**
- * **Revelation** written to **Help** us **know** - **Jesus WINS**

& guys - **Learning & Teaching** all these things
Encompasses our **Entire Lives** as **Disciples**

There is **NO 'Ticket Punch' Salvation** in the **Bible**
This is a **Life-Long Learning & Growing Process**

Francis Chan says: (no video)

Salvation is not like receiving a train ticket to heaven, where the ticket gets us aboard, but after that we can put it in our pocket and forget about it. Rather, it is like a marriage, where we enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ and become a part of His family, the church. The Christian life is a process of . . . learning to apply [Jesus'] teaching in our everyday lives, and then teaching others . . . to do the same.

BE a Disciple - MAKE Disciples - *Disciples Making Disciples*

& the **Greatest Part** of it all - is the **END** of **V. 20** -

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age

That's **Really IT** - That **Jesus Christ** will be **WITH US** - **ALWAYS** -
to the End of the Age

When a **Soldier** Goes into **Battle** - If He knows his **Highest General**
is **right there** with him - It **gives him CONFIDENCE**

& Our **High General** is the **CREATOR** & **KING**
of **Heaven & Earth** !! - & **HE IS WITH US**

AND - the **WORK** of Salvation is **FINISHED** - The **VICTORY** is
absolutely & completely WON - It's **ALREADY Finished** & **WON** !!

Hebrews 10:12 says (ESV)

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

The Work of Salvation is **FINISHED** !!

But **there is STILL WORK** to **Do**

In 1 Corinthians 3:9 Paul says of he & Apollos (ESV)

9 For we are God's fellow workers . . .

& 2 Corinthians 5:20 says (ESV)

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

God CHOSE to use US - To **BRING** the Good News to the World

God CHOSE to use US - To Help others **FOLLOW** Jesus

God DOES NOT have a **BACK-UP PLAN**

God **WILL** use His **Church** - to **Reach** the **World**
with the **HOPE & SALVATION** of **Jesus** Christ

But **HERE IS** the Part

EACH of us must **Personally** Come to **GRIPS WITH**

If you **Belong to Jesus** Christ today - **HE** has **COMMISSIONED You** -
to **TAKE PART** in **His ONLY PLAN** to **Bring Salvation** to the World

Are you willing to say - **YES LORD** . . .

WHERE you **Place Me**, I will be **WILLING** to be **USED by YOU**
to **INVITE others** to Follow You - & then **HELP them** do that

Let's Pray