

Topic: “A Disciple-Maker”

Text: 2 Timothy 2:2

Question: Are you living the life of a disciple in order to make a disciple?

Synopses: Here we find the precious Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul telling Timothy and us today that; We must MULTIPLY disciples. But as important as you becoming, and making, a disciple is, that is not the end goal. Paul says it is extended to another level. You want the people whom you disciple to then go on and disciple others.

Today As we celebrate our 56th Annual Founder’s Day, (I’m reminded of this stirring and powerful hymn **“We’ve come this far by faith ... leaning on the Lord”** was written by **Albert A. Goodson**, an African American who grew up in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s.), it’s an opportunity to reflect on the many years of service and the blessings received by our Founders (Apostle Roy and Eva Myles) and their families over the years.

By the grace of God and with the prayers and support of our many members, present, past, and future, Augusta Deliverance Evangelistic Church, has become the church they are today. As we continue God’s work, we must continue to build upon our spiritual foundation and tell the world about the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must remember as it is stated in **Psalms 100:3, “Know ye that the Lord He is God and it is He who has made us and not we ourselves. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”**

So, as we celebrate this Founders Day and each Founder’s Day going forward, remember how we have been blessed by this church and its activities over the years. We must continue God’s work of saving souls and telling others about the goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ and grow stronger through the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:2

(KJV) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

(NIV) And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

(NLT) You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

(AMP) The things [the doctrine, the precepts, the admonitions, the sum of my ministry] which you have heard me teach [[a](#)]in the presence of many witnesses, entrust [as a treasure] to reliable *and* faithful men who will also be capable *and* qualified to teach others.

I. (You must be **MADE** a Disciple). You must BE a disciple yourself.
(:2a) “The things which you have heard from me ...”

The first thing we should note here is that Timothy had become a disciple himself; he had “heard from (Paul)” the important elements of the Christian life.

Acts 16 tells the story of how Paul, on his second missionary journey, came to the towns of Lystra & Derbe, and found Timothy, whose mother was a Christian, and who was well-spoken of by the people in the area, and he chose him, :3 says, “to go with him” on mission. So, he did, and Timothy became Paul’s “disciple”, going with Paul everywhere he went, and learning from him everything that he taught. Timothy was a disciple himself, which put him in the position to become a disciple-maker.

This is what God wants for each of us. He wants us personally to become disciples. The Bible word “disciple” means “learner.” Jesus commanded His followers in The Great Commission on **Matthew 28:18-20 to go and “make disciples.” He did not say “make converts” who have “made a decision”; He commanded them to make “disciples”; “learners”, “teaching them to OBSERVE all that I commanded you.”** In other words, they were to make followers who would put into practice what Jesus taught. It is one thing to “make a decision” and “fill out a card” and say you are a “convert” to Christianity. It is another to genuinely be a “disciple” who puts into practice what Jesus commanded.

For so many years we have put such an emphasis in our churches on “making a decision” to follow Jesus, that we have almost lost what it really means to actually FOLLOW Him as His disciples. We ask people, “Have you ‘made a decision’ to follow Jesus?” and if they say they have, we are content with that, no matter how they live, or what evidence they may or may not have in their life that they are truly following Jesus. Now, if you are going to be His disciple, you do need to “make a decision” at some point to follow Him! But merely “making a decision” is not the same thing as following. You have to actually FOLLOW!

I’m reminded in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”. The Apostle Paul had warned the church that their desires needed to change, which is a part of what it meant to imitate Christ. To follow him was to follow what Jesus did, what he said, and to want what he wanted — for the Father to be exalted.

Our grandson who has turned 4 years old on this past Monday, His name is Prince. If I tell my grandson, “Prince, go clean your room”, he could come back to me after some time and say, “grandpa, I’ve made a decision. I am going to do what you said and clean my room!” That would be GREAT that he had “made a decision” to clean his room, but the “proof in the pudding” would be, does he actually DO it?

Unfortunately, that is what has happened with a lot of so-called Christians for the past several generations. People have come forward

and “made decisions” saying that they were following Jesus, but the truth is, they are not really DOING it! We need to understand that just “making a decision” to follow Jesus is not the same as actually following Him. Jesus said in Luke 6:46, “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ but do not DO what I say?” He was saying there that merely “professing” you are His follower is not enough; you must show it by the way you live. A real disciple is one who OBSERVES what Jesus commanded, just like He said in Matthew 28:20.

Turn To your right and ask your neighbor ... Are you a Disciple? Now Turn To your left and say ... I’m a Disciple Maker!

Each one of us here today should ask yourself: am I a Disciple?

1) Am I a genuine follower of Jesus Christ, not someone who just claims to have a “decision” some time in my past, but have I truly repented of my sin and trusted Jesus as my Lord & Savior, so that I have fruit in my life which demonstrates the reality of that decision?

2) If you are, then you need to ask yourself: Am I doing what Jesus commanded disciples to do? Are you truly following Jesus? Not just have you “made a decision” to follow Him, but are you in actuality following Him? Are you putting into practice the things you heard in the word week in and week out? Do you envision yourself as a teacher or a discipler? Who are you witnessing to on your job, in your home or your kids? Some theoretical things you have heard about — or can you give personal examples because you are practicing these things yourself?

In Matthew 23, Jesus condemned the scribes & Pharisees, saying they were blind guides leading the blind, so that both will end up in a pit! In other words, you can’t lead someone else as a disciple if YOU are not a disciple yourself.

- You cannot make a disciple if you are not personally a disciple.
- You cannot take anyone farther than you have personally been.

- You can't teach anyone about praying if you aren't personally praying.
- You can't lead anyone to obey God's word if you aren't obedient.
- You can't tell anyone how to evangelize if you never share Christ.

The most basic question to ask before you try to become a disciple-maker is, **are you practicing these things yourself?**

If you are going to be a disciple-maker, then you must personally BE a disciple. It is an absolute prerequisite.

II. (You must **MAKE** Disciples). If you are a disciple, then you should MAKE disciples.

(:2b) "entrust these to faithful men"

Paul told Timothy, because you are a disciple, and you have heard and learned these things from me, NOW I want you to go and share these things with others: "entrust these to faithful men." The word "entrust" here is from a Greek word which means "to set or place before", as in a meal which you set before someone. It is used in Mark 6:41 of how they "set before" the 5000 the loaves and the fish that Jesus multiplied.

Paul had used that same word in I Timothy 1:18, where he said "This command I entrust to you, Timothy" — So Paul is asking Timothy to do for others what HE had done for him: "entrust, pass along, set before" them the doctrines and practices of the faith which he had learned from Paul. Because Timothy had been a disciple, he wanted him to now go and make disciples too.

(You Don't Have To Be In The 5-Fold Ministry – Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher) to make disciples

This wasn't a "new" commandment. As we have seen, this was Jesus' command from the very beginning in Matthew 28:29, "Go and make disciples ...". Again, Jesus did not command us to make "converts"; He

commanded us to make “disciples”, people who are being taught to “observe all that (He) commanded.”

This past July, while at the Philadelphia Fellowship, I was able to fill in for Pastor Kerwin in Men’s Fellowship. Due to an Emergency, back here in Augusta, I spoke about receiving the Holy Spirit and releasing their heavenly language. I believe about five brothers came up, began to release their prayer language, and found themselves on the floor. When I took my seat, I sat next to Apostle Myles, and he said to me **“You did it just the way I showed you.”**

III. (You must **MULTIPLY** Disciples). We must MULTIPLY disciples. (:2c) “who will be able to teach others also”.

But as important as you becoming, and making, a disciple is, that is not the end goal. Paul says it is to extend to another level. You want the people whom you disciple to go on and disciple others. He commands Timothy to entrust these things to faithful men “who will be able to teach others also.” In other words, the process is to continue in an endless chain of disciple-making.

That should our goal for what happens in our churches: not just “addition”, but multiplication, as disciples make disciples who make disciples, until we touch the whole world through discipleship.

Sis. Krause and myself, once a year, we have facilitated a 26 week disciple class called: MASTERLIFE. 4 books, 6 weeks each book.

- Book 1: **The Disciples Cross.** Learning how to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ by practicing six biblical disciplines.
 1. Spending Time With the Master;
 2. Live in the Word;
 3. Pray in Faith;
 4. Fellowship with believers;
 5. Witness to the world;

6. Minister to others.

- Book 2: **The Disciples Personality.** You would develop Christ likeness in character as you learn to live in the spirit.
- Book 3: **The Disciple's Victory.** You will experience victories over the world, the flesh, and the devil in spiritual warfare.
- Book 4: **The Disciples Mission.** You will join God's mission of making disciples by identifying your stage and growth and your role in ministry.

This is indeed where many are failing. We are not training others to take our place.

I read one study which indicated that if nothing changes, tens of thousands of churches will close their doors within the coming years and cease to exist. What has happened? I believe one of the biggest reasons for this is that we have “dropped the ball.” We have not purposefully made disciples to pass the leadership, and the faith, down to the next generation. We have “dropped the ball” — and as a result we are losing the race.

It is time for every church to ask itself: what are we doing to purposefully “pass the ball” to the next generation? Not just what can we do to “reach” people, but to disciple them as Jesus commanded, and train them to train others, to train others, to multiply disciples to reach our town, our communities, and the whole world.

<Alter Call>