

Discipleship with a Purpose Pt 2

Matthew 28:19

- It is my conviction that the old saying that goes “**every disciple is a believer, but not every believer is a disciple**”, is very true, as Jesus has clearly called all believers to be disciples > **Math 28:19-20**. So the purpose of these lessons is to protect us from falling victim to what the world says Christianity and Christian living should be and what Jesus and the bible says it should look like. Were told **4** things in these **2** verses that all believers should know and aspire to apply
- 1. **Go and make disciples**- Jesus didn't assume that just because someone believed in Him that they'd automatically follow Him; there was a refining process that needed to happen. Which is why there's two verbs for us to pay close attention to > “**go**”, “**make**”, we'll discuss these at length in just a little bit, but those two verbs lets us know discipleship means effort.
- 2. **Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit**- theologically this speaks of water baptism, but there's a practical application as well, water baptism consists of immersion, not just face, arms, legs, but the whole body, so practically this pictures us immersing our mind, body, soul, into the name and person of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, this symbolizes a unity between the believer and our God.
- 3. **Teaching them to observe all things Jesus has commanded**- in order to immerse oneself into a belief system one must 1st be taught how to observe what's been commanded. The Greek word for **observe** > “**tereo**” means to watch or guard from loss; never let what Jesus has taught us out of our sight. Satan uses all of the glitz and glamour of the world to attract our flesh in order to get us to stop paying attention to what Jesus has said, and once we've let what Jesus has taught out of our sight it is twice as hard to find and embrace it again.
- 4. **Lo Jesus is with us always even until the end of time**- once we've immersed ourselves fully into the Lord then we experience an assurance, a confidence from the Lord that no matter what He will never leave or forsake us. One of the major battles among professing Christians today is a feeling of abandonment by the lord as soon as things become difficult, hard or troubling, but for those who have immersed themselves they know He is with us forever.
- This is why discipleship is so important, why that in scripture after **salvation** the next step in Christianity was **discipleship**, for it not only tells us **who we are** > “**His disciples**”, but **what were to do** > so **go** and “**make disciples**”. **Lk 4:18** tell us Jesus came to set us free from sin, death, Satan, World, and self, but after were free then what, did He have in mind that once were free for us to do whatever we want that makes us happy? The world thinks that freedom is to be used to allow man to say, do, and be whatever he wants even if it's offensive to his creator.

- That's what Israel thought when Jesus walked the earth, they wanted Him to set them free from the physical oppression of Rome, but not so they could serve Him, they wanted freedom to serve self. Every time God set Israel free look at the results > **Egypt**- they went right back into idolatry, **Philistines**- they wanted to be just like them and elect a fleshly King, **Babylon**- idolatry, **Germany-Russia**- Money, fame, Hollywood, sports, entertainment, finances, dominated by the Jewish race, and yet we see less about God and His Word in those arenas than anywhere else.
- So why did the Lord set us free, it's simple > **Eph 4:8**- He led captivity captive, meaning He set us free from the bondage of sin, death, Satan, by conquering the grave, and gave gifts to men, **Eph 4:10-11**- the gifts He gave to the church were Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, all these were gifts from the Lord, but for what purpose > **Eph 4:12**- to equip the saints for the work of the ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. **Eph 4:13-16**- this will produce **unity of the faith, maturity of the Spirit, protection from falsehood, boldness in deed-tongue**.
- **V16** Christ expects everyone to do their fair share of the work if they are one of His disciples, for Christ's disciples not only bear His name but they don't mind doing His work > **Mk 6:6-7** after one of His most unsuccessful mission trips to His home area is when Jesus called the **12** to Himself and sent them out two by two after He gave them power over the demonic realm. Notice Jesus doesn't go with them, He simply gave them instruction to do what they'd been observing the last **2** yrs, this meant they'd better had been paying attention guarding from loss.
- If they have been observing like **Math 28:19** says then the mission trip will be a success, if they haven't then it will be a disaster. **Math 11:1-5** says it was such a success that John the Baptist hears of it in prison and sends His disciples to reassure him that what he has dedicated his life to and what he is willing to die for is the right decision. Jesus tells John disciples go and report that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and most importantly the poor have the gospel preached to them, exactly what John prophesied.
- **Lk 10:1-2** this was so successful that Jesus sent out **70** more telling them to go to all the places He Himself would eventually go and prepare the way. He tells them that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, this again is an indictment upon **Math 28:19** where there were plenty professing to be believers but very few willing to do the work, which proves once again that all disciples are believers but not all believers are disciples for you must be willing to work for the Kingdom. Lk 10:20 in the end when everyone comes back bragging on what they did Jesus reminds them that the work assures us of who we are but the real reward is where will be.