

Marching Orders Pt 2a

Ephesians 4:11-12

- We are in the Disciple section of our Win-Disciple-Send series, and last week we read that once a person has been **won to Christ** its then time for them to be **discipled in Christ**, and for that to happen one must make a conscious choice to give God their bodies, minds, and will according to **Rom 12:1-2**. But before anyone can see outwardly, significant changes are occurring inwardly, this is when the transformation begins to be noticeable to the outside world.
- Now there are two parts of discipleship, the first is understanding exactly what it means to be called a disciple of Jesus, as it goes way beyond the generic definition of a follower of Him. Judas followed Jesus around for three yrs and emulated Him so well that when it was revealed that one of the **12** would betray Him everyone pointed the finger at each other but no one suspected Judas, as he had camouflaged himself so well that they couldn't tell he was a counterfeit.
- A disciple is one who is completely devoted to their master, and the relationship goes well beyond student and apprentice, as their not simply mastering a trade or a subject, they are learning to emulate their teacher's life. So to sum it up, as Christians we become disciples, who are devoted to living our lives in accordance to the teachings of Jesus that's the first part.
- The second part of **being a Disciple of Jesus** is **Making Disciples**, we are expected to duplicate ourselves as followers of Christ, that is part of the great commission > **Math 28:19-20**- in this verse Jesus tells us exactly what He meant by making disciples, **1st He says Go**, which means in the Greek "go" make an effort to do what He says, so I need to take action, **2nd after going I need to make**, by giving people exactly what I received which is the gospel, and I shouldn't discriminate who I offer this life giving message to, as it's not up to me to pick and choose who should hear, just like I don't know who it is that's going to receive or embrace it.
- **3RD** Once they've received the truth I then encourage them to be baptized signifying they now are under new management, having been given **A New Name** "Christian", **A New Purpose** "Glorify God", **A New Identity** "The things you once did you no longer do, the things you once said you no longer speak, people can't even recognize the new you", **A New Spirit** "The Holy Spirit". **4TH** teach them to obey everything that Jesus has commanded us, this is what it means to be a Disciple you also will go out and make Disciples, but it's not you who are doing it, as the last piece of the verse tells us that Jesus is with us always meaning He is the One working through us

- **Eph 4:11-12** this brings us to our study verse, after **Devotion**, and the **Desire** of being used, comes the root word **Discipline**, we need Discipline if we are going to accomplish what we just read in Mathew concerning the “**The Great Commission**”. Thankfully the Lord has given us a road map to follow that if implemented correctly has a **100%** success rate guaranteed. The problem arises when people already have in mind what they are willing to do for the Lord instead of waiting to see what He has already done for you, what do you mean by that?
- In **Eph 4:7** says all of us are uniquely gifted so that no two members of the body are alike, so although it is critical for there to be unity in the church there is still a need for diversity as well > **1Cor 12:4**- the gifts are different but it’s the same Spirit that has distributed them, this means each of us have a particular role to fill based upon the gifts that God has given to us, so you and I don’t have to choose what to do God has already chosen that for us as He’s uniquely gifted us to fill these roles in the body, which now makes the great commission attainable.
- Not only has God given us gifts but He’s also given us offices like Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, and these offices are meant for a specific purpose and that’s “to equip the saints for the work of the ministry”. God wants His people to be Disciples, and to make Disciples, but He also knows we need to discover and develop these gifts in order to accomplish this task, so what does He do? Give each individual upon salvation a unique gift spoken of in both **Rom 12**, and **1Cor 12**, and offices for men and women to equip us for the work.
- This is all done to build up the church, notice it doesn’t say to build up a person, edification is primarily for the person who is being served, not the person who is serving. Why is that? Because of our pride, we live in a world where it worships the gifted and talented, and if we do that in the body we will be no different than the world we live in, but in scripture those who are gifted are expected to be the ones who are serving and the reward doesn’t come from those who are benefitting it comes from the gift Giver Himself and that’s our Lord.
- This means in order to develop and discover our gifts we must fellowship with other Christians in the local assembly, this is so vital because it’s here where we learn gifts are not toys to **play** and do what we **want with**, they are tools to **build with**, and if there not used in love they become weapons to **fight with**, and instead of building up we begin to tear down, Amen!.