

Series: Lasting Impact
Title: It's Simpler Than You Think
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Peter 3:15
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Discipleship is “representing Christ to others through words and actions”—Rob Fisher, The Simplicity of Disciple Making, p. 21

It's _____

Matthew 28:18-20

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.”

When a person trusts Jesus, what is the first thing we should tell them to do?

Christ _____ **for our sins and** _____ **again**

It's _____

1 Peter 3:15

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

It's _____ **and** _____

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he posted on Facebook and said “Jesus is the way” and everyone dropped what they were doing and believed Jesus.

Matthew 9:9

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

It's all _____

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

“We have both the freedom and the privilege to represent [Jesus] anywhere, anytime, to anyone”—Rob Fischer - The The Simplicity of Disciple Making - 26

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

It's a _____ pursuit

Matthew 9:9

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “**Follow me.**” And he rose and followed him.

John 21:22

22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You **follow me!**”

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

**As you _____ Jesus, you will increasingly _____ him to others
through your words and actions**

Series: Lasting Impact

November 16, 2025

Title: It's Simpler Than You Think

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; 9:9; 1 Pet 3:15

Getting to Know You:

1. If you had to wear a t-shirt that represented who you are every day, what would it say?
2. What's one small action someone did for you that made a surprisingly big impact?

Into the Bible and Application Questions:

1. It's Simple (Matthew 28:18–20)

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[b] 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."

1. In Matthew 28:18–20, Jesus gives authority to all believers. Why do so many Christians still feel unqualified to make disciples?
2. In what ways can new believers share their faith even before they know much about the Bible?

Application Questions

3. Who are two people you could share your faith story with this week?
4. When was the last time you shared honestly, "I don't know the answer, but I can find out"? How could that honesty itself point someone to Jesus?

2. It's Biblical (1 Peter 3:15)

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

1. Rob Fisher defines discipleship as "representing Christ to others through words and actions." How does that definition challenge or encourage you?
2. Why do you think Peter emphasizes being ready to give an answer for our hope?

Application Questions

3. If someone asked you today, "Why do you have hope?"—what would you say?

4. What's one way you can prepare yourself better to answer tough questions about faith?

3. It's Intentional and Relational (Matthew 9:9)

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

1. Why is intentionality and relationship so important in disciple-making compared to just posting messages online?
2. Looking at Matthew 9:9, what stands out about Jesus' approach to calling Matthew to follow Him?
3. How have you seen someone's ordinary faithfulness influence others in powerful ways?

Application Questions

4. Who in your circle of influence might be open to spiritual conversations if you were more intentional?
5. What's one relational investment (a coffee, a walk, a text) you can make this week to build a bridge for the gospel?

4. It's All-Encompassing (1 Corinthians 10:31; John 10:10)

1 Corinthians 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

1. How do we often separate our lives into "spiritual" and "secular" categories? Why is that a problem?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 10:31 teach us about representing Christ in every area of life?

Application Questions

3. Think about your daily routines (meals, commuting, errands). How could you invite Jesus into those moments to represent Him?
4. Is there an area of your life where you still keep things "secular" instead of surrendering them to Jesus' lordship? What step could you take to change that?

5. It's a Life-Long Pursuit (John 21:22; Philippians 1:6)

John 21:22 - Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1. Why do you think following Jesus is described as a "life-long pursuit" rather than a one-time decision?
2. How does Philippians 1:6 encourage you when you feel like your spiritual growth is too slow?
3. Why do you think growing in your awareness of your need for Jesus is actually a sign of maturity?

Application Questions

4. What's one practical way you can grow in your dependence on Jesus this month?
5. What habit could you start (or restart) that would remind you daily that following Jesus is a lifelong pursuit?