

The Miracle or the Message - Week 10

John 1:39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

Matthew 10:1 "Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority..."

Making disciples is not reserved for pastors, teachers, or Bible experts.

The enemy wants people to believe: "I could never disciple someone."

But Jesus showed that disciple-making is simply building intentional relationships that help people follow Him.

If you can be a friend, you can make a disciple.

1. Discipleship Starts with an Invitation

John 1:41–42 "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon... And he brought him to Jesus."

John 1:43 "Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.'"

The first disciples were gathered through simple invitations.

Andrew invited Peter.

Jesus invited Philip.

Philip invited Nathanael.

Nobody waited until they were experts.

Nobody completed a training course first.

They simply invited others to come and see.

Key Truth: Discipleship often begins with one intentional invitation.

2. Relationships Create the Platform for Discipleship

Jesus didn't simply teach lessons.

He:

- Walked with them
- Ate with them
- Traveled with them
- Encouraged them
- Corrected them

Discipleship happened in everyday life.

It happened around tables.

It happened on the road.

It happened through shared experiences.

Key Truth: People are usually discipled through relationships before they are discipled through information.

3. Jesus Reprogrammed Their Thinking

Matthew 5 "You have heard that it was said... but I say to you."

Jesus continually challenged wrong beliefs and replaced them with Kingdom truth.

He corrected:

- Legalism
- Religious traditions
- Prejudice
- Self-righteousness
- Misunderstandings about God

Jesus taught crowds publicly.

But most discipleship happened relationally through conversations and shared life.

Key Truth: Discipleship is helping people think more like Jesus.

4. Jesus Modeled the Life He Wanted Them to Live

Jesus didn't just tell His disciples what to do.

He showed them.

He modeled:

- How to love difficult people
- How to show grace
- How to respond to opposition

- How to interact with sinners
 - How to care for people others ignored
- Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
People learn more from what we model than what we say.

Key Truth: More is caught than taught.

5. Jesus Sent Them Out Before They Felt Ready

Matthew 10:5 “These twelve Jesus sent out...”

Notice the progression:

Disciple = Learner and follower

Apostle = Sent one

Jesus didn't wait until they knew everything.

He empowered them and sent them.

Learning and doing happened at the same time.

Key Truth: You do not become ready and then obey. You become ready by obeying.

6. The Holy Spirit Empowers the Mission

Matthew 10:1 “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority...”

Before Jesus sent them out, He empowered them.

The authority was never their own.

The power came from God.

Luke 10:17 “Even the demons submit to us in your name.”

The disciples learned that ministry is not accomplished through personal ability but through dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Key Truth: God never calls us to do His work without providing His power.

7. Readiness Is Discovered in the Field

Luke 9:13 “You give them something to eat.”

Even after experiencing miracles and ministry success, the disciples still defaulted to dependence on Jesus instead of stepping into responsibility.

Jesus continually stretched them beyond what felt comfortable.

Why?

Because growth happens through obedience.

The disciples learned by doing.

Key Truth: The greatest classroom for discipleship is real life.

Jesus' Disciple-Making Strategy

Love Them In, Grow Them Up, Send Them Out

LOVE • GROW • GO

So What Does This Mean For Us?

Biblical discipleship is not measured by what you know.

It is measured by what you do.

The goal is not becoming an expert.

The goal is helping people take their next step toward Jesus.

You do not need twelve people.

You may only have one.

One intentional relationship can change a life.

One obedient believer can make an eternal difference.