

# Discipleship: The Agent & Channel of Change

August 13, 2023

**Bible Text:** 2 Timothy 2:24–26 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup> correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

## Introduction:

**BIG IDEA:** Making disciples involves God and the Lord's servant working together for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

Making disciples involves God and the Lord's servant working together for the eternal good of others.

### 1. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of CHANGE (25b-26)

- God the Holy Spirit "grants" or causes it.
- The Holy Spirit gives repentance (metanoia)—it's a \_\_\_\_\_.
- "leading" - Repentance takes one to a different \_\_\_\_\_.
- Truth is a realm free of the "hidden" and set in reality.
- Satan operates in the realm of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. The Lord's Servant is a \_\_\_\_\_ of CHANGE (24-25a)

The Lord's servant (doulos) surrenders himself to the control of the Holy Spirit

Traits of the Lord's servant

- must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone
  - **The aim is \_\_\_\_\_ the soul not winning an argument.**
- able to teach
  - **The aim is communicating truth that sets \_\_\_\_\_ free.**
- patiently enduring evil
  - **The aim is to patiently endure THEIR evil, so they won't have to endure God's \_\_\_\_\_.**
- correcting his opponents with gentleness
  - **The aim is a fully devoted to Jesus loving \_\_\_\_\_.**

## Reflection Questions:

- Can you see God's part and the human factor in making disciples?
- Do you see the high stakes of making disciples? Rescue from snare of Satan
- Do you see the challenges to making disciples?

## Truth into Action

- God changes people so avoid taking that burden upon yourself.
- God's plan is to use ALL OF US to become channels of change.
- Your pastors' "noble task" is to ready you to do the work of ministry.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

## Table Talk

Warm Up: How is the local a church a "gift to you?"

1. What is the role of an "overseer" or pastor?
2. Re-read 2 Timothy 2:24-26. Now write out the verse using your own words.
3. Look back at the sermon notes and review the 4 traits of the Lord's servant. Do you see these traits in your life? What areas do you need help on?
4. Why is repentance such a big deal in the life of a believer.
5. Read through a few puritan thoughts on repentance and think about it.
  - **John Trapp** - 'Repentance with man is the changing of his will; repentance with God is the willing of a change.
  - **Thomas Manton** - Whoever delays his repentance does in effect pawn his soul with the devil.
  - **Thomas Watson** - By delay of repentance, sin strengthens, and the heart hardens. The longer ice freezeth, the harder it is to be broken.
  - **Thomas Fuller** - You cannot repent too soon, because you do not know how soon it may be too late.
  - **Thomas Brooks** - Though true repentance is never too late, yet late repentance is seldom true.
  - After reading the thoughts above, why is repentance so important and so hard in a believer's life?
6. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What is God's plan for the church and why is it such a big deal in any faith family?

Closing prayer: God thank you for our pastors and help them shepherd us well. We ask that You build a wall of protection around our faith family by making all of us sensitive to sin and hungry for your Word and desperate for your daily guidance. Amen!