



BE—BECOME—DO: HOW JESUS MAKES DISCIPLES

Let's look a little closer at this process and privilege we call being a disciple of Jesus. We know that in Jesus' generation, this was a literal, physical, and tangible reality. How can we translate this same invitation into our own time, routines, and realities today?

It's not that people don't want to become like Jesus, or that people aren't trying to become like Jesus. It's that we don't know how to become like Jesus. We need a pathway to formation for the modern era. (John M. Comer)

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.*

Matthew 11:28-30 *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."* (The Message)

I. BE WITH JESUS

- A. For sure, Jesus' original audience was well-acquainted with the yoke of burden and abuse from the Roman government. They were tired. They were weary. They needed a Messiah, a just King and Ruler, and a rest that they were not experiencing. Jesus had come to deliver the Good News of Heaven's Kingdom. God came to mankind.
- B. What does it mean to "Be with Jesus"? How do I walk toward Him? Does He really want me near Him? Am I truly wanted by Him? These are all reasonable and legitimate questions we must all address in order to be with Jesus. Jesus came for the sole purpose of bringing you to Himself forever.
- C. Our primary task and assignment in this age is to disciple people. This was Jesus' primary reason for coming in flesh to live, die, and extend the hope of His Kingdom.
- D. *"You cannot build a house if you do not know what kind of house you need to build, and you cannot disciple correctly if you do not understand what God wants from this age and how he wants to produce it."* (Samuel Whitefield- **Discipleship Begins w/ Beholding**)
- E. Becoming an Apprentice-Disciple of Jesus must start with God. Many people think to start with information, habits, disciplines, rather than personal encounter with God. The tools are to serve as practices for stewarding our encounters in God.
- F. Practices are important and are a requirement in the discipleship process, lest we become a people of faith without works, which is destined to grow cold. Where is your level of faith? Where is the level of your love for Jesus? Do you need a fresh encounter?
- G. The pendulum of human history is swinging back to a season of desperately seeking for a remedy of the broken systems of mankind. At the same time, God is setting up a global encounter that is already drawing many souls into His eternal family.
- H. One of the most beautiful and simple invitations we see through the scriptures is to "Behold" God/Christ/Son of Man/etc.
 - a. **Psalm 17:15** *As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*
 - b. **Isaiah 42:1** *Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.*



- c. **Matthew 5:8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."
- d. **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- e. **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- f. **Revelation 22:4** They will see his face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
- I. **Dan Rather**, CBS anchor, once asked **Mother Teresa** what she said during her prayers. She answered, "I listen." So Dan turned the question and asked, "Well then, what does God say?" Mother Teresa smiled with confidence and answered, "He listens." For an instant, Dan didn't know what to say. "And if you don't understand that," Mother Teresa added, "I can't explain it to you." (**I could not find the original interview.**)
- J. King David walked in one of the most 'high definition' lifestyles of "Being with God". King David's desire became his life-pursuit. David's Desire became his Lifestyle.
- K. What did David's ache ultimately produce? It produced a nation who worshipped God again as a Kingdom of Priest and set in motion night and day singing to God.
- L. "Discipleship must begin with the knowledge of God and the revelation of His beauty in the person of Jesus." (**Samuel Whitefield- Discipleship Begins w/ Beholding**)
- M. We want to build a house/family of corporate beholding God. We cannot become all that God has intended in an individualistic setting. We must go there together with a corporate family.
- N. Corporate Beholding (*Altar*) = Corporate Discipleship (*Table*) = Corporate Practices (*Road*)
- O. Transformation through corporate beholding has been God's method of discipleship from the beginning. It was true with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. It was true for all of Israel's history. It was also true with the Apostles they built churches according to this pattern.
- P. Personal Practices of "Being with Jesus":
 - a. **Be with God**- Practice recognizing the Holy Spirit in and around you. There is something so beautiful that happens in our hearts when we recognize God's nearness and we acknowledge it back to Him in conversation. Position yourself intentionally with God by setting a time and place to meet with Him.
 - i. **Mt. 6:6**- *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*
 - b. **Talk to God**- God is always listening for the sound of our voice. Your voice is unique and special and moves His heart like no one else. You are His favorite.
 - i. **Mt. 6:9-13**- 'The Lord's Prayer'
 - ii. This is the place and time that we confess what's in our heart and then receive what's in His heart. We give to Him and then He gives to us, His heart, resources, dreams, etc.
 - c. **Listen to God**- We grow in wisdom and understanding when we take the time to listen to our Heavenly Father.
 - i. **Deut. 6:4-5**- "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."
 - ii. **To Hear** (Hebrew- shaw-mah')- to hear, listen to, & obey



II. BECOME LIKE JESUS

- A. We will become like that which we behold. This is at the heart of humanity's desire to worship something or someone greater or more beautiful than our limited personal experience. This God-design in all of us is what leads us to the worship of money, sex, and power.
- B. *"Because the people did not draw near to God and be transformed by what they saw and heard, they ended up in idolatry."* (Samuel Whitefield- Discipleship Begins w/ Beholding)
- C. **Matthew 11:29-30** *Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."*
 - a. This invitation to be with Jesus is for ALL. The invitation of Jesus is for apprenticeship, friendship, and for purposeful living that last for eternity.
 - b. **Yoke** (Greek- *zygos*)- *any burden or bondage; a restraint; imposed laws or restrictions;*
 - c. Jesus' laws and restrictions and restraints are light and easy when seeking to be followed in relationship and fellowship with Him.
 - d. Those who follow Jesus will love Him and become like Him. In exchange, we will obey Him because of this love.

III. DO AS JESUS DID

- A. **Matthew 9:37-38 & 10:1**- *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* ^{10:1} *And Jesus called to Him His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*
- B. These spiritual practices and disciplines are to be understood as life-long. We want to pursue these practices as a lifestyle to be expressed and walked out in different ways and in different seasons.
 - a. **Prayer**= We are invited into communion with God as our Heavenly Father.
 - i. **Mt. 6:6** *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*
 - ii. **Mt. 6:9** *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven..."*
 - b. **Witnessing of Christ**= Just as Jesus came to earth to reveal the Father to humanity, so too we now have the privilege to reveal Jesus to the world as His witnesses. We see that Jesus disciples represented Jesus in powerful ways on their early missionary trips (**Mt. 10**).
- C. **Additional Practices from the Life of Jesus:**
 - a. **Fasting**= Jesus practiced regular and routine fasting as His cultural custom and practice. He also taught on fasting more than anyone in the Bible. He accentuated the focus and reward of fasting as to the hunger and desire to be near the Father and to receive the reward of intimate fellowship with God.
 - i. **Mt. 4:2** *And after (Jesus was) fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.*
 - ii. **Mt. 9:15** *And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the Bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.*
 - b. **Solitude**= Jesus continually withdrew from the crowds to spend time enjoying His creation and His Heavenly Father's company.
 - i. **Mt. 15:29** *Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there.*



- c. **Bible-Reading**= Jesus was “*the Word become flesh*”. Jesus also identified His earthly ministry role of coming to complete and fulfill the Law of God. Jesus was also well-versed in the Law of God as a Jewish male, having been required to memorize the first 5 books of the Old Testament at a minimum. We see Jesus throughout the New Testament teaching in the synagogues and correcting the Jewish leaders of His day when they misrepresented the Law. The Word is the ‘*Bread of Life*’ we feed our souls on.
- i. **Mt. 5:17** “*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*”
 - ii. **Rev. 10:9** *So I went to the angel & told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”*
- d. **Sabbath**= Jesus practiced and followed the rhythms of Sabbath. Jesus also taught that He was the Sabbath. Jesus taught that Sabbath was set aside for us, not as a legal requirement but as a spiritual invitation of Kingdom rest. It is God’s model of work and rest. God modeled it in creation (*God rested- Gen. 2*), reminded His people of its gift (‘*Remember*’- **Ex. 20**), and then reminded them again (‘*Keep*’- **Deut. 5**).
- i. Sabbath is our invitation to stop, rest, delight in God, & worship Him.
 - ii. We observe and enter Jesus’ Sabbath by observing and practicing it. Weekly is the biblical model.
- e. **Community Fellowship**= Jesus modeled and now invites us all into this gift of fellowship with our family. Jesus is community in the eternal fellowship of the Trinity and has created us in this same likeness. We long for it. Our culture is deficient of it. Many have sacrificed their own life in the absence of it.
- f. **Acts of Service**= Jesus came to release His Kingdom justice. This was revealed in various ways. Yes, His justice was experienced through the forgiveness of sins, but also in acts of compassion by healing the sick, defending the widow, celebrating the faith of children, serving the marginalized, feeding the hungry, etc. This is our invitation to go and do likewise.
- g. **Generosity & Giving**= Jesus is the embodiment of generosity. He taught most clearly about generosity and self-giving in the Sermon on the Mount. He said that those who would follow Him would practice this as they saw Him living this way. Ultimately, Jesus’ earthly ministry could be summed up in, “Jesus came to give!”