

COMMISSIONED

THE ART OF LIVING OUT THE
WORDS, WAYS, & MISSION OF JESUS

10.2 Go and Make Disciples

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Hey, this is Pastor Heather. Thanks so much for being on this commissioned journey with us. We've taken some time to talk about becoming students of the words of Jesus, imitators of the ways of Jesus, and partnering in the mission of Jesus. Part of the partnering in the mission of Jesus is being disciple makers ourselves. Over the past 10 weeks, we've explored what it means for you to be a disciple, but Jesus didn't say go be disciples. He said, go make disciples.

So this is a charge and a challenge to take Jesus' final command and make it your first concern. In 82 AD, Emperor Domitian built the Arch of Titus in Rome to commemorate his older brother's military triumphs. Most notably, the siege of Jerusalem 12 years earlier in 70 AD, the Roman army marched into Jerusalem and destroyed the temple stone by stone. They plundered the treasures of the most sacred space of the Jewish people. On that arch is one of the most vivid depictions we have of the artifacts of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. You can clearly see the Roman conquerors carrying away the menorah. That arch captured a moment. The apparent triumph of Rome over the God of Israel, the power of Rome had out powered the God of Israel. The glory of Rome had replaced the glory of the God of Israel or so it seemed.

In reality, the glory of God had poured out of the temple and taken up new residents a few decades earlier on the day of Pentecost. When the Arch of Titus was built, a new movement was already underway. A new house for the glory of God was already being built. His power was found in a small sect of Judaism called the way. Across the Roman empire, small bands of people, Jews, Gentiles, Roman soldiers, slaves, merchants, men, women were meeting in homes, following the teachings of, learning to live their lives from a Jewish rabbi named Jesus. 300 years later, this fringe group, this fledgling religion would grow into a movement that would impact the entire empire.

Now, if you were Emperor Domitian in 82 AD, building the Arch of Titus to declare the supremacy and glory of Rome, the dominance of the power of Rome over all the other powers on earth. The idea that 300 years later the tables would completely turn, the idea that the God who once resided the shattered temple of Jerusalem would become the God of the entire Roman empire would be unfathomable, illogical, incomprehensible, impossible. And yet that's exactly what happened.

300 years after the arch was erected to declare the glory of Rome, the pagan gods of Rome would be replaced with the God of the Jewish temple. The images of the Roman Caesars would be replaced by images of Jesus of Nazareth. The empire that sought to extinguish the God of Israel came to embrace him. Today in the Coliseum, in the box where the emperor watch, the glad gladiatorial games across stands, the way of humility, forgiveness, and grace stands in stark contrast to the ego, the power, and the darkness of the empire. How did that happen?

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul writes to a young pastor named Timothy and the things you've heard me say in the presence of many witnesses in trust to reliable people who will be also qualified to teach others. We're here today because Paul disciplined Timothy, who disciplined men, who disciplined others. This isn't just about dispensing information or checking boxes or completing a class. Being a disciple means becoming a disciple maker that we take the things that God has entrusted to us. The things that God has taught us, and we teach those, we invest those, and we impart those into other people.

There are a few ways you can do this. You can do it one on one. Paul often with Timothy and Titus would sit down and say, these are the things that God has entrusted to me. This is the journey that I'm going on. Come do life with me as I live it. Here are the things of God that I see in you. And I want to call out in you, and I want to position you to be able to do.

Is there somebody in your life that you have influence with? That you can begin to instruct, and impart, and encourage in the ways of God. Other times it's with a small group, five or eight or 12 people. The kind of people that came around Jesus. He did life with them. He invited them on mission with them. He instructed his words with them. One on one, one and two, in a small group. It's about taking the words of Jesus, the ways of Jesus, the mission of Jesus, learning to live our lives from him and inviting others to do the same.

It's not about us having all the answers. It's not about us being in a higher level of spiritual authority or maturity. It's simply about us saying, I'm following Jesus. Do you want to share the road with me as I go on that journey? Pastor Mark often says discipleship is ultimately growing fruit on other people's trees. As you come to the end of this commissioned experience, it's not the end of a journey. It's actually the beginning. It's the beginning of you being a disciple who makes disciple makers. As you look around in your life, who are people that are faithful, that are available, that are teachable, that you can begin to share the things that God has shared with you and say, "Come along, share the road with me on this journey."