

Evangelism. Discipleship. Mentoring. Proclaiming. Witnessing.

The church has become semi-pro at making faith seem more complex than even the Bible does. In Matthew 28, Jesus speaks his last words in Matthew's Gospel: "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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you always to the end of the age." We often refer to this as the Great Commission.

Now, it's worth noting that this is not a command to go to mud hut Africa and share the gospel with a people group who have never heard of Jesus. The verb in this passage is not "go," but rather "make." This is something that we lose in translation. It's better understood as something like, "While you're going, make disciples." Maybe God is calling you to Africa, but more likely, he's telling you to make disciples wherever you're going. We do this by sharing Christ with others, but what do we mean by that?

We need to make sure that we don't make it something more or less than what it actually is. To share the love of Christ is to reflect his love towards those around you. That could be something like shoveling your annoying neighbor's driveway. It could mean taking some brownies to the new family across the street and welcoming them to your neighborhood. It could mean helping a coworker with a project that she's behind on even though you already feel swamped. Maybe it's grabbing coffee with the new guy that you saw this week at church. Maybe it's sitting down and actually directly sharing the faith and hope that you have in Jesus with your sister. We must remember that though Jesus commands us to make disciples, only he can actually change hearts. Our job is to do the work that he has told us to do. The results are his job.

We must not understand sharing Christ to mean only directly telling people to believe in Jesus or only that people will know us that we are Christians by our actions. The New Testament has over 100 "one another" commands that direct our actions as well as explicitly telling us to share our hope, such as 1 Peter 3:15, which says, "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 the gentleness and respect."

What is God calling you to do? It might be uncomfortable. People might not like what you do. People might be offended. But sharing Jesus with others isn't just something that we do because we have to; it's something we should want to do. If you have no desire for that, maybe that first step is simply asking God to put that desire in your heart.

Someone had to share Jesus with you and with me and it's time for both you and me to do the same.

As you discuss this video in your groups, I want you to take some time. Consider who in your life could you be sharing Jesus's love with this week? Who in your life needs to come to know Jesus for the first time? Who might already know him, but needs someone to show them his love this week?

And overall, what is God calling you to do?