

DISCIPLE-MAKING
What Disciples Do
Matthew 28:18-20

I will never forget one mid-afternoon in the year 1996. I had a conversation with a man that I only knew from a work-place context. He asked to meet with me, so we went out in a field and sat down together to talk. He was direct: "I need help." With those simple words, he unfolded to me a story of failure, frustration, and pain. That day, we set up a rhythm of conversations and meetings that changed not only his life and mine, but also the lives of many others in the years to come. This series is what that conversation was about. My friend did not need a religion or a program or a series of directives. He needed what I had been given by others during my lifetime. He needed a friend that would DISCIPLE him.

As a pastor, I had discipled many people in a church context over the years. And long before becoming a pastor I had led many people to faith in Christ. But Joe was one of the first people that I had ever chosen to personally disciple over the long haul outside of a church context. I am so glad that I did. Some of you have NEVER done this because you think that this is only something that pastors are supposed to do. Some of you don't disciple others because you don't feel qualified. Some of you don't even know what discipleship is. No matter what category you are in today, my prayer is that all of us will begin to EMBRACE what Jesus clearly called EVERY ONE of his followers to do during their years on this earth.

How many of you listening to me today would call yourselves a CHRISTIAN? How many of you would call yourselves a DISCIPLE of JESUS CHRIST? **Do you think that there is a DIFFERENCE between those two terms?** What do YOU think a disciple is? Can you give any characteristics that a disciple should have? Actually, the people that follow Jesus were not originally called Christians. Christian was a derogatory term that was given to them some time after the church began to grow and spread. **[Acts 11:26]**

WHAT DO DISCIPLES DO?
Disciples FOLLOW.

First Line: ARE YOU A DISCIPLE? **[JD GREER: Come and See or Come and Die?]**

***What IS a disciple?**

- Is this different than "just" being a Christian?
- Can you be a Christian without being a disciple?
- Why are so many people not clearly BOTH? **[Conversation with baby disciples]**
- Many never grow beyond an initial conversion! We play a part in that!**

***Are you living the kind of life that anyone would WANT to emulate?**

- Can you do this without PRIDE?
- *Paul's words: "Follow me . . . AS I FOLLOW CHRIST!"

-This is the **ATTRACTION** of a disciple's life. **Acts 14:21-22 NIV**

21 They preached the gospel in that city and **won a large number of disciples**. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

*They "WON" many disciples in that place

*They strengthened and encouraged the faith of disciples in that place

*Note the **CONTEXT** of this passage: Suffering! [\[People stoned Paul 1 day before\]](#)

-Do you desire for others to follow your lifestyle? Why or why not?

***TYPICAL pattern of discipleship:** You **ASK** the **RABBI** if you can follow him.

-Historical Context of disciples in Israel

*Typical rabbis and disciples [Educational process and selection of disciples]

*How Jesus gathered disciples **[Seen throughout the gospels!]**

***JESUS'S pattern of discipleship:** HE asks the **UNLIKELY** if they will follow him!

Matthew 4:18-23 NIV

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, "**and I will send you out to fish for people.**" 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

*You have been **CALLED** [What an **HONOR!**]

*You have the **PROMISE** of his **PRESENCE** . . . always! [\[Matthew 28:20\]](#)

-This is how you **LIVE** (in his presence!)

-This is how you begin to **BEAR FRUIT**: **John 15:4, 16 NIV**

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ... **16 You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Disciples LEARN.

-This is a form of **APPRENTICESHIP** **[Matthew 5; John 14-17]**

-This is a **LIVING CLASSROOM**

-This is an **INFORMAL** (yet **INTENTIONAL**), **HIGHLY RELATIONAL** concept

*The dust of the rabbi

*Following and learning is what **PREPARES YOU** for the **GOAL** of all **DISCIPLESHIP!**

Disciples DISCIPLE! [This is NOT an OPTIONAL concept!] **Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*You will never disciple others if you are not being disciplined.

CHC Contexts for developing disciples – [Small groups/Sundays/Bible studies/etc.](#)

Going: You have not only been CALLED; you have been SENT!

*Going is an intentional act of moving toward others as you move around!

Sharing: Every disciple is commanded to SHARE THE GOSPEL.

*Making disciples begins with EVANGELISM.

Baptizing

*Leading people to COMMIT TO and IDENTIFY with Christ.

Teaching

~Modeling: The first rung of the ladder is to DO what you TEACH before you TEACH what you DO!

*Allowing people to see the FRUIT of your obedience to Christ ([and the fruit of your disobedience – FULL DISCLOSURE!](#)) will serve to ATTRACT them to a DISCIPLINED LIFE!

~Not just sharing information; it is INSTRUCTION for IMPLEMENTATION.

~This kind of teaching always stresses OBEDIENCE over KNOWLEDGE.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD TODAY?

*[LISTEN for God's CALL on your life and RUN TO HIM!](#)

-Are you under conviction today about your salvation?

*[Take the NEXT STEP FORWARD in BEING DISCIPLINED.](#)

-Small Group

-Spending time with those you want to emulate

-Becoming CONSISTENT in sitting under the WORD OF GOD on Sundays

-Spending time in the Word ON YOUR OWN

*[Look for those that YOU can HELP to disciple!](#)

-We do not need a PROGRAM for this at CHC

-This can be done ORGANICALLY [**Who is in your life?**]

*Offer to PRAY FOR and WITH them

*Agree to READ THE WORD TOGETHER and then DISCUSS what you read

-Make sure that your SMALL GROUP does not become just a SOCIAL GROUP!

LET'S PRAY.