

CS – A New Purpose  
11/26/23  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
Sunday AM

This AM, we're finishing up our *Come/See* journey thru the life/ministry of Jesus. For 12 weeks, we've sought to connect the dots b/w the life/ministry of Jesus and His investment in the (12) to teach them how to follow Him and live out His G.C.

My hope/prayer for all of us as we've walked this journey is that we've learned even more what it means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus to be His disciples.

Today, as we close out our journey, we're going to connect the dots b/w Jesus' final commission and the Lord's Supper table. Let's begin in Matthew 28:16-20 – in what we know to be the G.C.

*Then the disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the H.S., teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Surely, I am w/ you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20*

Now turn w/ me to 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, where the Apostle Paul offers the believers at Corinth instruction concerning the Lord's Supper.

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

***Do you see the connection?*** Let's connect the dots.

*Go into the world and make disciples of all nations... and whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup – you proclaim the Lord... go hand-in-hand. **They're basically the same commission.***

**proclaim** – to declare openly, plainly, and loudly – it refers to being unashamed of the Gospel – that is, the good news that God so loved the world, He gave Jesus to die on the cross to atone for our sin – b/c it is the power of God to save and transform lives.

**THUS** – as we live each day, and as we gather as a church – we do so to remember who Jesus was and what He did – and also, we gather to spur one another along in living out/proclaiming God's love to others.

When we come to the L.S. table – we remember Jesus' sacrifice, but also our commission to make disciples.

**STILL** to ***proclaim*** is more than standing on a street corner holding a sign and screaming at people to turn or burn. It's also more than going to church and being religious when it's convenient.

To ***proclaim*** is to live intentionally investing Jesus in you into others to introduce them to Him so that they might believe, receive, and follow Jesus in surrender.

**THIS IS WHAT JESUS MODELED FOR US!**

**DYK** – when Jesus called the (12), they didn't view Him as God or as the Messiah – they saw Him as a teacher/prophet. In fact, we know from the Gospels that the earliest they finally recognized Him as God was when Peter got back in the boat after walking on water – then they said, “My Lord and my God.” That was 2½ yrs. into Jesus' ministry.

**Why is this important?** It's b/c it teaches us that in most cases, *evangelism* occurs w/in relational disciple-making not outside of it. The G.C. isn't evangelism THEN discipleship – it's making disciples by guiding them to belief and surrendered obedience. The thief on the cross is the exception to the rule – NOT the rule.

Like Jesus w/ the (12), we engage people where they are to influence them to believe first, then once they've believed, we disciple them to surrendered followership.

This brings us back to communion and the G.C. We partake/proclaim to make disciples of all nations. We partake/proclaim b/c God wants no one to perish, but all come to repentance. We partake/proclaim to be reminded that we're part of a mission greater than ourselves w/ eternal/earthly significance. We partake/proclaim to be reminded of what it means to be a fully developing follower of Jesus.

We find the traits of a Jesus-follower right here in Matthew 28:16-20 – the (5) marks of a disciple.

I A Disciple is **AVAILABLE** to God

*The disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain **where Jesus had told them to go.***

**DYK** – from Capernaum to the top of Mt. Arbel is approx. 8.5 miles w/ a 1,300 ft climb. According to a hiking calculator – it'd take roughly **4-5 hrs** (1-way).

That'd be the equivalent of me asking you to walk to Senoia to meet w/ me for a word of encouragement – only at the end of the walk, you'd still have a 1,300 ft climb to our final destination.

**QUESTION** – what would have to motivate someone to hike 5 hrs to be available for a meeting? Would you?

**ANSWER** – They did b/c they were convinced Jesus was who He said He was and had risen from the dead.

**SEE** – the more we're convinced of Jesus, the more available we will make ourselves to Him and His G.C.

*Christ's love compels us, b/c we're convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:13-14*

II A Disciple has **AFFECTION** for God

*When they saw Him, they worshipped Him;*

They respectfully responded to Him giving Him His rightful place on the throne of their lives.

They didn't hold hands in a circle and break out into *Kumbaya*, take up an offering, and call it worship. They loved Him w/ all of their heart, mind, soul...

III A Disciple Submits to the **AUTHORITY** of God

This is what we discussed last week.

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me (it's implied it's accessible to God's people)*

When we abide in the Vine, we have access to God's power thru the H.S. to live the Christian life and to accomplish God's G.C.

IV Disciple Lives for the **AGENDA** of God

*Go/make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and H.S. and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

This is the priority objective of a disciple. It is to meet people wherever they are and walk w/ them to Jesus. For those who've never met Jesus, we walk them to **belief**. For those who know Christ but have fallen away, we walk them to **reconciliation**. And for those who know and walk w/ Christ, we walk them to **deeper participation** in walking w/ and serving Christ.

V A Disciple Relies on the **ASSURANCE** of God

*Surely, **I am w/ you** always, to the very end of the age.*

A disciple doesn't jump ahead of God, but waits on the prompting of the H.S. They don't say, "God I'm going to do this will you bless it? Instead, they ask, "God what have you called me to do?" – and then they do it!

This is what it means to **proclaim** His name and to **go and make disciples**. This is (1) of the reasons we partake of the L.S. – to regularly be reminded to take up our commission to share the love/truth of Jesus w/ every person our lives intersect w/ every day.

Let's partake today to live to make disciples! This is not only our calling... it is our **NEW PURPOSE!**