



Oct 2, 2022 - Pastor Jason Carter

Vision Statement

We live to see lives transformed through Jesus

Mission Statement

We are a family committed to seeing lives changed. We connect people to God and others, make disciples of Jesus, and are Spirit empowered people who live out the Good News in our world. And we are each determined to fulfill our unique purpose in God's mission to everyone, everywhere, every day.

3 Pillars

Connect | Disciple | Empower

In this message, we discuss three questions about **discipleship**.

- What is a disciple?
- Why make disciples?
- How do we go about disciple-making?

What's the difference between connect and disciple? It is the level of relationship. Connection is the 'front door'. Discipleship is the 'living room couch'. Connection may be more superficial, whereas discipleship is more personal and intentional.

- We will make disciples at Good News.
- We are committed as long as it takes
- It is not optional, it's what we are called to do.
- We desire everyone be in a discipleship relationship. Preferably both ways (discipling and being disciplined). Why? Because we never arrive. Always growing and helping others grow
- This will take time

Disciple-making is following the example of Jesus to engage others in a relationship so that they experience transformation and wholeness in Christ.

1. What is a disciple? Biblical Requirements

Matthew 4:18-22 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."

"A disciple's goal was to gain the rabbi's knowledge, but even more importantly, to become like him in character."

-Lois Tverberg

Here we see a few things:

- These people left to follow.
- God may not call you to leave family and job, but He will call you to follow Him over anyone/anything else.
- A disciple is devoted to following and emulating the teacher.

"Jesus lived in a deeply religious culture that highly valued biblical understanding. Rabbis were greatly respected, and to be a disciple of a famous rabbi was an honor. Rabbis were expected not only to have a vast knowledge about the Bible, but to show through their exemplary lives how to live by the Scriptures. A disciple's goal was to gain the rabbi's knowledge, but even more importantly, to become like him in character. It was expected that when the disciple became mature, he would take his rabbi's teaching to the community, add his own understanding, and raise up disciples of his own."

- Lois Tverberg

Who did Jesus call to be a disciple?

He did not call the best religious students or who's-who of culture:

- Fishermen - Hard workers, dangerous job, had grit, a little raw
- Matthew - Tax collector/ extorter of money
- Philip, James (the son of Alphaeus), and James the Younger, Thaddaeus - most likely tradesmen
- Simon the Zealot - Some politics Zealots, like Simon, engaged in politics and anarchy in hopes of instigating a revolution

We don't have to be a religious scholar or to be perfect to have impact, but we must love God and familiar with the word of God. All of us are called to **be** a disciple who **makes** disciples. The goal is not to list a bunch of requirements or traits. The goal is to grow into a committed follower, a disciple, of Jesus. This happens one decision at a time, one degree at a time. One decision, one commitment, one act of surrender, over and over, every day, in following Jesus and transformation happens.

2. Why make disciples?

First and foremost, it is commanded.

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."

We have received the handoff. Every person a minister of the Gospel. The same mission has been given to each of us.

Secondly, we are invited into the mission.

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul is instructing young Timothy of how to make disciples:

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,^[a] who will be able to teach others also."

Note: 'men' can be translated men, human, and mankind, so this verse also includes women.

Teach (Matt. 28:20) - '*parathethemi*'

"To set (especially a meal) before, serve, deposit with, entrust to, bring forward, quote as evidence."

If to "teach" is as if we "set a meal before", it's almost like Grandma who keeps piling more and more food on your plate!

We disciple to Jesus, not ourselves. We simply share what we know about Jesus.

If you do not feel qualified (many of us don't) this is the power gospel: we give away what we know.

3. How to make disciples

This is where most people get stuck, but if we will be faithful to answer the call to *do* it, we will figure out the *how*.

Is it classes? One-on-one? Life groups? Life-on-life fellowship?

YES! All the above, as long as it is relational and intentional.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV 8 "so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

Committed to God AND Others

Galatians 4:18-19 NIV 18 "It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you."

We often give up, tap out, and quit on people too easily when we don't want to be inconvenienced.

I am not the best at many things. But I will give you my *best*. I will not have everything you need. But I will give you *everything I have*.

Colossians 1:28-29 NIV "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."

Paul is an example to us that we contend, through the pain and through the mess, with all the energy God gives us until Christ is formed in those we are discipling.

Basic ways to disciple:

- Titus 2 - the relationship can be based on age. Older women with younger women, older men with young men
- Based on calling - Timothy was young but expected by Paul to be an example and teacher, based on God's calling, not his age
- Based on season of life - prayer, marriage, parenting, marketplace/business
- Based on experience or past issue - addiction, divorce, sickness, or grief
- Long term relationship - you connect well and stay connected through the years
- Based on proximity (often overlooked) - you live or work near/with the person

Bottom line: If you are committed to Jesus, you can be a disciple-maker.

If you feel nervous or unqualified, simply say this:

I am not the best at many things. But I will give you my best. I will not have everything you need. But I will give you everything I have.

What do you need to do to move forward, based on what you heard today?

- Create margin in your time to do this?
- Reach out to someone you admire who could disciple you?
- Offer to lead a life group or join one?
- Get involved in a class?

If you have not yet filled out the Discipleship Survey, please do so [HERE](#).