

## Hope Revolution- Part five – prepare for the next one.

April 30, 2023

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### BIG IDEA – Another hope revolution is coming, let's get ready!

#### scripture focus - John 16:5-9 NLT

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. **But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin,** and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. **The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.**”

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When Jesus fulfilled His job, His assignment before the world or time began, He spoke as though so much **more** change, trouble and turmoil was coming. And soon, the world would look nothing like what it had in the previous millennia. After all the shock and awe of His birth, God physically born as a human being, there was 33 ½ years of how Jesus lived. We only have brief snapshots of what little Jesus or pre-teen Jesus looked like. As an adult, He lived a focused, radically different life of men similar in age. The way He spoke and treated people was refreshing and encouraging to those who lived outside the fringes of comfort or popularity. There was also how He died. It was wretched, brutal, and confusing. Then, before the grieving process of shock, denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance could even begin, Jesus came back to life and out of the grave!

Forty days later and Jesus left the planet. Did the disciples try to process another round of grief? Jesus was gone again, but he did not die!

**John records this “going away” pep talk well before Palm Sunday, Passion Week or His death. They didn’t get it, but they would later.**

How many times did Jesus tell them something they would NOT understand until later? Plenty of times!

He told them all kinds of information ahead of time, even telling Peter how he would eventually die! (John 21:19)

**What is often missed is the critical moment that Jesus tells them, someone else is coming... and they were going to love him! Who? Who is coming and what does this all mean?**

John records the details, but he starts by Jesus laying down some wild hints about the future!

**Chapter 15 ends with, “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.”**

Then Jesus bluntly tells the hard truth, “I’m telling you so you won’t split!”

John 16:1-4 NLT **“I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith.** For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. This is because they have never known the Father or me. Yes, I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn’t tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer.”

### **John 16:5-9 NLT**

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. **But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.** And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and

of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. **The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.**"

### **What could possibly be good, best or to their advantage of Jesus going away?**

How difficult do you think it was to go through all that the disciple's experienced with Jesus' living, teaching, coaching, then dying and coming back to life – only to leave again? it's encouraging to have Luke tells us that the disciples left the ascension filled with joy. "So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy." Luke 24:52 NLT

Have you ever lost a coach and mentor who poured their life into you, then either died or moved away?

**Heather Atkins tells me that when you must take something away you need to show people it's because something better is coming.**

Jesus was telling his closest friends that someone better was coming and wouldn't arrive until he was gone!

He said the advocate, counselor, helper **won't** come if he were to stay. He was speaking about the Holy Spirit. The good, best, better wasn't in the quality of the Holy Spirit because he is also God, it was because of his availability or access to the believer.

When Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age," he was either speaking of the end of his job or purpose, or he was speaking of God in terms of himself and the later the Holy Spirit.

**The permanence and presence of the Holy Spirit is a comfort and guarantee that the coaching and mentoring continues at a more powerful and intimate way. The Holy Spirit will be not just in the next town, next room or at the end of boat. He will be in your head and heart!**

Since we know a lot about Jesus' job as the Messiah. We know he was to be born, live and die as fully God and fully man. We know his purpose was to give his own life for the salvation of all humanity. And once he finished his job, he was to return to heaven to be with God once again. **Do we fully know and understand the job of the Holy Spirit?**

**Exactly what does the Holy Spirit do that Jesus' himself wasn't asked to do?**

That's a whole sermon series or personal study all on its own!

In my notes I list the Bible Dictionary Themes on the Holy Spirit. There are pages and pages of different theological discussions, but I found **a list of 32 separate themes regarding the Holy Spirit.**

For now, let me focus on just a couple aspects of the Holy Spirit's job. This helps me understand why Jesus said it was good or expedient that the Holy Spirit came.

In us as believers in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the continuing, consistent presence of God in our life. Therefore, we are NEVER alone and truly God is always with us. **We may feel alone or afraid, insecure, insignificant, or invisible, but that is never true, the Holy Spirit is always present.**

**Since the Holy Spirit is the perfect representation of God and the full expression of Jesus, it should make a lot more sense when we quote, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"** What things are we trying to without the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit comforts, guides and encourages us as we become more like the image of and behaviors of Christ.

In the verses we just read out of John, Jesus tells his apprentices, what the Holy Spirit does in the world around them and in our world today.

**The Holy Spirit convicts the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.** Miraculously the Holy Spirit does so in ways that **woos and warns humans!**

Let me ask a direct question: Who's job is it to convict the world of sin? Whose job is it to display God's righteousness? Whose job is it to warn of coming judgment? The Holy Spirit does this so much better than I could.

Why? Because I don't know an individual's heart. I don't know their story. But the Holy Spirit does, and he knows how to lovingly comfort and correct.

Matthew and Mark record Jesus final words to his followers.

Mark writes:

"And then he told them, "**Go** into all the world **and preach** the Good News to everyone." Mark 16:15 NLT

Matthew writes the great commission:

"Therefore, **go and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 NLT

I believe the only way to accomplish the mission that God has left for us is to continue the revolution that Jesus started. And the only way I see that will happen is for me and you, working together, to believe, be discipled and start making disciples. The only way I see that is even remotely possible is for us to be led by and obedient to the Holy Spirit.

Do we need another revolution of mercy? Do we need a hope revolution? Absolutely! It turns out that **we don't just need God to help us fix our country or culture – we need Him to fix US!**

**Let it start with us and then let's allow God to prepare us for the next one.**

I spent most of my early years, after believing in Jesus, being disciplined. I felt like I had to little training and way too little life experience to teach others. And it was intimidating to think of me mentoring or coaching others in how to live like Jesus – especially with those much older than myself.

However, God kept putting me into lives and situations that were way over my head. I used to be one that mistakenly believed that the life I was challenged to live was simply a special calling from God to be a Pastor. I felt bad trying to hold normal, God-loving people to the high calling of full-time ministry or the office of being a Pastor. The expectations of perfection and amazing spiritual insight and knowledge was crushing, but this was obviously my “burden” to bear.

I know better now. My “calling” isn’t any higher than yours. My life is nothing special or spectacular. I don’t have all spiritual insight to life and God. I am just a normal guy living an extraordinary life with Jesus. My only advantage is that I said “yes” to the Holy Spirit more than I said “no.” My faith, my skills have increased in direct proportion to how often I let God lead.

**Do you want to be a part of the next revolution coming our way? Do you want to see miracles and see God powerfully use you in His Kingdom? Start now. Start today. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and when He does say yes. We will get there together!**

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## NOTES

### Scriptures

#### John 16:5-9 NLT

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. **But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the**

world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. **The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.**"

**Go means Go!**

**Matthew 28:18-20 NLT**

"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Mark 16:15-17 NLT**

"And then he told them, "**Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.** Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages."

**Luke 24:44-48 NLT**

"Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that **this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'** You are witnesses of all these things."

**Acts 1:6-8 NLT**

"So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. **And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

**John 6:63 NLT** "The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

**John 6:65 NLT**

"Then he said, "That is why I said that **people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me.**"

## Questions

- Q: How many hints did Jesus give about his death, resurrection, and exit?
- Q: Is it possible that God **doesn't** tell us certain things about our future?
- Q: What could possibly be "to their advantage" of Jesus going away?
- Q: Exactly what does the Holy Spirit do that Jesus' himself **wasn't asked to do**?
- Q: Who is responsible for convicting the world of its sin?
- Q: Notice the word sin is singular? What did Jesus say was the primary sin?
- Q: What things are we trying to do without the Holy Spirit?

## COMMENTARY REFERENCES

### Strong's Concordance

**John 16:7 STRONGS NT 4851:** συμφέρω- to bear or bring together.  
**sumphero:** I collect, am profitable to, it is expedient. **Believe it or not – it is GOOD.**

### Elliott's Commentary for English Readers

**John 16:7.** We may not fathom the deep counsels of God in which the reason of these words is to be found; but the order fixed in these counsels was that **the Son of Man should complete His work on earth, and offer the sacrifice of Himself for sin, and rise from the dead, and ascend to the Father's throne, before the Advocate should come.** The Son of Man was to be glorified before the Spirit was to be given. Humanity was to ascend to heaven before the Spirit could be sent to humanity on earth. The revelation of saving truth was to be complete before inspiration was to breathe it as the breath of life into man's soul. The conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment could only follow the finished work of Christ.

### Bible Knowledge Commentary

**John 16:12–13:** The disciples were not able to receive any more spiritual truth at that time. Their hearts were hardened, their concern was for their own preeminence in an earthly kingdom, so they saw no need for Jesus' death. Sorrow over His departure and dismay over the prophecy of a traitor among them, along with the prediction of their own desertion, rendered them insensitive to more spiritual truth. But ... the Spirit of Truth (cf. 15:26) would come after Jesus' death to lead the apostles into the truth about Jesus and His work.

**The Spirit, Jesus said, would not teach the disciples on His own (i.e., on His own initiative) but would teach only what He hears from the Father. This points up the interdependence of the Persons in the Trinity. The Father would tell the Spirit what to teach the apostles about the Son.**



Also **the Spirit would teach what is yet to come**. This statement helps one understand the promise, **He will guide you into all truth (lit., “all the truth”)**. This was a promise to the apostles that their partial understanding of the person and work of Jesus as the Messiah would be completed as the Spirit would give them insight into the meanings of the soon-to-come Cross and the Resurrection as well as **truths about Jesus’ return** (cf. 1 Cor. 2:10).

## The Lexham Bible Dictionary

**Jesus departing and the Spirit arriving.** Jesus claims that His departure will be advantageous to the disciples precisely because of the Paraclete's arrival, which seems grounded on Jesus' parting (John 16:7). This connection relates to the Spirit's ability to indwell believers, thereby becoming Jesus' continuing presence with the Church (John 14:16–20). The Paraclete arrived on Pentecost, just 10 days after Jesus' ascension (Acts 2:1–4).

## Faithlife Study Bible

The Gospel of John assigns the title of paraklētos to the Holy Spirit (John 14:16–17; 14:26; 15:26). The word occurs four times in the context of Jesus' farewell conversation with His disciples (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). During this discourse, Jesus promises the disciples that He will send another paraklētos to be in them and with them forever (John 14:16–17), implying that Jesus has already served as a paraklētos for His followers. Thus, as “another” like Jesus, the paraklētos will mediate the presence of Christ. The paraklētos' role of mediating the presence of Christ is also suggested in Jesus' post-resurrection promise to manifest Himself to those who love Him, an appearance that the world will not be able to see (John 14:17–21). **The paraklētos' task of teaching the disciples and reminding them of all that Jesus taught them** (John 14:26) further mediates Jesus' presence with the disciples after His resurrection and ascension, providing them with comfort and consolation in Jesus' absence.

## New Bible Commentary

John 16:5–15 (NBC): 16:5–15 **The work of the Holy Spirit.** There appears to be a contradiction between v 5 and 13:36; 14:5, since in the latter cases Peter and Thomas did ask where Jesus was going. But consider the different contexts. Here Jesus was concerned with the completion of his whole mission. The disciples had insufficient insight to enquire about this. Neither Peter nor Thomas had earlier grasped the full significance of their question. **The disciples were now plunged into even more perplexity by Jesus' further revelations. Jesus commented that they were filled with grief (6). In order to alleviate that grief Jesus assured them that his going away would be beneficial to them.** Once again the answer lies in the promised coming of the Spirit: this is the fourth Paraclete saying. There is a

close relationship here between Jesus and the Spirit (7). The allusion is primarily to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost which was subsequent to the passion and resurrection of Jesus. The **action of the Spirit will be to convict**. Since the Greek word is followed by a preposition, meaning 'in regard to' followed by three different subjects, the act of convicting relates to all three (8). The first, sin, is less difficult than the other two. The meaning must be that the **Spirit convicts the world of its sin, righteousness and judgment**. The world has no true understanding of the nature of sin, but the Spirit will show people that they are sinners because of their unbelief in Christ (9). **The Spirit also convicts of righteousness** (10), an unexpected idea until it is recognized that the world's idea of righteousness is very different from God's. Only when the world is convicted of the hollowness of its own righteousness will it appreciate the righteousness of Christ, which has been vindicated by his exaltation. **The third activity of the Spirit is to convict of judgment** (11). Again, the world's judgment is wrong, based on the principles of the prince of this world, but since the latter is condemned this exposes the world's method of judging. The world is equally condemned with its prince.

## Dictionary of Bible Themes

### Holy Spirit, ministry and work of

This set of themes consists of the following:

- 3203 Holy Spirit, and assurance
- 3206 Holy Spirit, and grace
- 3209 Holy Spirit, and love
- 3212 Holy Spirit, and mission
- 3215 Holy Spirit, and peace
- 3218 Holy Spirit, and praise
- 3221 Holy Spirit, and prayer
- 3224 Holy Spirit, and preaching
- 3227 Holy Spirit, and prophecy
- 3230 Holy Spirit, and regeneration
- 3233 Holy Spirit, and sanctification
- 3236 Holy Spirit, and Scripture
- 3239 Holy Spirit, anointing of
- 3242 Holy Spirit, baptism with
- 3245 Holy Spirit, blasphemy against
- 3248 Holy Spirit, conviction of
- 3251 Holy Spirit, filling with
- 3254 Holy Spirit, fruit of
- 3257 Holy Spirit, gift of
- 3260 Holy Spirit, gifts of

- 3263 Holy Spirit, guidance of
- 3266 Holy Spirit, in creation
- 3269 Holy Spirit, in life of Jesus Christ
- 3272 Holy Spirit, in OT
- 3275 Holy Spirit, in the church
- 3278 Holy Spirit, indwelling of
- 3281 Holy Spirit, inspiration of
- 3284 Holy Spirit, resisting
- 3287 Holy Spirit, sealing of
- 3290 Holy Spirit, the life-giver
- 3293 Holy Spirit, witness of
- 3296 Holy Spirit, work in the world

## Internet Links

**REVOLUTION – Are their signs?** Warning: NSFC (not safe for conservatives)  
<https://theconversation.com/is-the-united-states-on-the-brink-of-a-revolution-123244>

“But after years of teaching on protests, uprisings and revolutions, it seems to me **the U.S. is currently showing all the signs political scientists and historians would identify in retrospect as conducive to a revolutionary uprising.**” Beth Daley  
 Editor and General Manager of TheConversation.com, **September 25, 2019.**

**First**, there's tremendous economic inequality.

**Second**, there's a deep conviction that the ruling classes serve only themselves at the expense of everyone else, undermining the belief that these inequalities will ever be addressed by the political elite.

**Third**, and somewhat in response to these, there is the rise of political alternatives that were barely acceptable in the margins of society before.

Combined, these factors create a deeply felt and widely shared sense of injustice, an almost palpable conviction that the system is not working for the majority and only for the very few who abuse their positions of privilege. These qualities weaken any regime's claim to legitimacy.

But they're not solely sufficient. The indispensable ingredient of a political revolution is the mental revolution that happens before: personal convictions that the system is no longer working and needs to be replaced.

## The coming of a revolution

**Before most major revolutions, there's a substantial increase in the number of protests.** Populations **display their displeasure and voice their grievances via marches, petitions and protests.**

**Slate Magazine Article - BY ISAAC CHOTINER - NOV 03, 2017**

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2017/11/is-violence-the-only-way-to-end-inequality.html>

In his new book, *The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century*, the **Austrian historian Walter Scheidel** puts forth a depressing and thought-provoking thesis: **The only thing that can really dent rampant and long-lasting economic inequality is violence.**

I'm optimistic about other kinds of inequality, like gender, race, and so on, where we have made progress. I'm optimistic about poverty alleviation, which, again, is a success story. I'm optimistic about inequality between countries going down, because the developing countries are catching up, so all of these are really nice stories. I'm just not very optimistic about economic inequality within [Western] societies, but I am optimistic about the absence of these leveling forces that were operational in the past. **I don't think there's going to be another big world war, or revolution, state collapse, plague, and so on, which is a good thing**, and if the price we have to pay for these things not happening is to have a certain degree of economic inequality, then so be it. I guess there's a trade-off.

[Glenn: The country's angst has only grown. 2020 was a brutally divided and violent year. The global pandemic was a reset, but it only exposed and exacerbated the deep issues of trust across all sectors of society. Yet, oddly enough, something else arose right underneath our noses, the explosive reach of personal freedoms, and liberties, now solidified in our culture as not just acceptable, but the new standard for all.

Now, to disagree, is not just bigotry or fascism, it's anti-american. It's been prevalent not just in politics, entertainment and media, but has been subversively pushed into the youngest, most vulnerable population of our country – our children and their education. Yet, even as these rights, liberties and freedoms are celebrated as fundamental, the levels of suicide, depression and mental health are skyrocketing to levels never seen before in our history.

The freedoms to “cast-off” of all moral constraints has not fulfilled its promise! Not unlike the radical promises of well being and freedom experienced through sex, drugs and rock-n-roll, they prove to be empty and destructive. Our older generations are begging younger to stop deconstructing and destroying everything they worked so hard to build and are beginning to demand a new generation's plan to rebuild the core of family, life and our country.

The greatest generation gave their children the luxury of leisure. The boomers gave their children a life full of personal engagement, enjoyment and

entertainment. GenX-ers gave their children praise and an over-extended safety net to let them grow, explore and not worry about responsibilities or money. They wanted the best for their children, but as it turns out, they gave their children debt and a dependency on someone else paying for it. What will the millennials leave their children?]

**Do we need another revolution of mercy? Do we need a hope revolution? Absolutely! It turns out that we don't just need God to help us fix our country or culture – we need Him to fix US!**

**Let it start with us and then let's allow God to prepare us for the next one.**

**How did God prepare the world for the Messiah's Revolution?**

<https://www.providentialhistory.org/?p=1333>

The Fullness of Time: A World Prepared for the Coming of Christ  
**DECEMBER 24, 2015 CAITLIN MULLON**

**The ancient world as a whole, was almost entirely in darkness and with the darkness came great wickedness.** Each civilization was ruled by totalitarian leaders who held total power by divine right and often enslaved and demanded the worship of their subjects (the only exception to this was Persia where unusually the law was above the king). **Paganism was openly practiced and represented everything that is evil and ungodly. Human and child sacrifice was a common practice, and so was the enslavement, torture and execution of pretty much everybody.** People in the ancient world were miserable. These nations rejected God's law in favour of man-made, counterfeit laws, and they also persecuted the true people of God. The ancient world is a picture of what the world is like without Christ, and shows us the desperate need mankind has for redemption.

The Jewish nation was a nation set apart from all others. God ordained it to be separate and unique. **While the nations around them worshiped many gods, the Jews only worshiped one. Where the ancient cultures were governed by man, the Jew's king was God. While the ancient nations were governed by laws made by man (although claimed to be from god), the Jews law came from God directly and is vastly different in nature from the often unjust and inequitable laws of the other nations. Where the religions of the ancient world focused on trying to please and appease the gods and find their way up to them, the Jew's religion was one of God reaching down to man. These two branches of heathen thought, Judaism and heathenism, both played a vital role in the preparation of the world for Christ.** Church historian Philip Schaff (History of the Christian Church

Vol: 1 by Philip Schaff; kindle edition) puts it this way, “As Christianity is the reconciliation and union of God and man in and through Jesus Christ, the God-Man, it must have been preceded by a twofold process of preparation, and approach of God to man, and an approach of man to God. In Judaism the preparation is direct and positive, proceeding from above downwards [God reaching down to man], and ending with the birth of the Messiah. In **heathenism it is indirect and mainly, though not entirely negative, proceeding from below upwards [mankind trying to reach up to God], and ending with a helpless cry of mankind for redemption.” As we shall see from the Greeks, heathenism created an emptiness and void that could only be filled by Jesus Christ.**

[Glenn: Post modern heathenism has been able to discard any need of a god, demi-gods, kings or rulers. Now, the modern heathen has only need to look towards themselves, looking inside their own mind for the necessity of all justice and judgment, all morality and behavior. We are the new gods of modernity, and our causes are our community, our churches of self-made religion!]

### How did Jesus prepare his followers to continue the revolution?

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-did-jesus-make-disciples>

**First, they worshiped him.** “Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!” Matthew 28:16-17 NLT

**He Made Them Fishers** - For Peter and Andrew, James and John, Jesus had first framed his call to disciple them in terms of their native profession. “Follow me, and **I will make you fishers of men**” (Matthew 4:19). Making good fishermen is a long, involved process, as they knew all too well. It requires teaching and training over time. Not only hearing, and internalizing, clear words of instruction and direction but also watching a master fisherman at work — and catching the unspoken rhythms and patterns of his craft. Such apprenticing requires, according to pastor Tom Nelson, “the kind of knowing that is difficult to capture in propositional terms or categories, but that emerges in the context of a close relationship and in the imitation of another” (*The Flourishing Pastor*, 94). Nelson cites philosopher Michael Polanyi (1891–1976) who calls it “**tacit knowledge**”: **By watching the master and emulating his efforts in the presence of his example, the apprentice unconsciously picks up the rules of the art, including those which are not explicitly known to the master himself.** (Polanyi, *Personal Knowledge*, 53)

**Now You Make Fishers** - Again and again, from one chapter to the next, and often one account to the next, Jesus navigates public and private dimensions of life, showing rhythms of welcoming “the crowds” (in public) and then giving undivided attention to “his disciples” (in private). He is willing to receive

and bless the masses as they come seeking, yet he himself seeks out his disciples, to invest in the few.

**'Disciple' as a Verb** - Christians today often talk about "discipleship," and so it might be helpful to clarify what sort of action and process Jesus's disciples would have heard when their discipler said to "make disciples." **Disciple-making, in this context, is the process in which a stable, mature believer invests himself, for a particular period of time, in one or a few younger believers, in order to help their growth in the faith** — including helping them also to invest in others who will invest in others. (Paul gives such directions to his disciple, in 2 Timothy 2:2, for raising up leaders in the Ephesian church.) Such **disciple-making requires both structure (particular lessons and topics to work through) as well as margin that allows the discipler to speak into unplanned teachable moments as they arise**. Such a process **is both engineered and organic**, involving both truth-speaking and life-sharing. Quantity time is the soil in which quality time grows.

**FORMAL AND INFORMAL - The vast majority of Jesus's time with his men wasn't formal.** [Mark 3:14](#) says, "He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be *with him* . . ." Before he sent them out to preach, they first needed to be with their Master, to hear his instruction, watch his life, and absorb his ways — not with a clock ticking in the background but with the space and time and overlap of everyday life that encourages the kind of effect that Jesus had on his men.

**All Nations' as the Goal** - Second is the **outward push of all nations**. In his commentary on the Commission, D.A. Carson notes that while "the main imperatival force" and "the main emphasis" is on the verb "make disciples," we should not downplay or overlook the effect of the participle *going* ("go and make disciples"). Lingered indefinitely in Jerusalem, or in Galilee, will not fulfill the mission. There is an irreducible "centrifugal force," we might say, not only in the participle but also in the object of the verb "all nations."

**All He Commanded - Now, as we go** — across the street, down the hall, to the church building or a coffee shop, into a new relationship or another appointment, or to the other side of town, or to a new state, or across an ocean, or to a new culture or language — **we make disciples, offering our words and time and attention for months, even years, and putting forward our own lives as examples**.

**What Did Jesus Mean to 'Go and Make Disciples'?**

[Robert Hampshire Christianity.com Contributing Writer](#)

The following are five steps on how we can go make disciples in our normal, everyday lives.

1. **We Must Move to Where People Are:** For us, we can “go” a couple of ways: We pack everything up and go to a foreign country, or it could also mean that we just recognize the opportunities we already have in the places where we already go — by striking up a conversation with someone at work or at the gym, meeting a friend for lunch, talking to someone at a social event, finding ways to serve a neighbor, or talking with someone in our own home.
2. **We Must Use What We Have:** Sometimes when we talk about “evangelism” and “making disciples” we focus on the “big” tasks like mission trips, church services, or apologetic debates. But none of these are discipleship (although discipleship might take place at them). **Instead, it is simply using who we are and what we can do to make a difference in others’ lives.**
3. **We Must Teach What Jesus Taught:** Many people think that unless they have a seminary degree or a pastoral position then they do not have the authority to teach people about God’s Word. **We can do much good** for someone, **but unless we also share the gospel**, we have done nothing more than covered their cancer up with a band-aid.
4. **We Must Invite Others to Go with Us:** It is important to note that when Jesus invited people to follow him, he did not just ask them to join him during fun events and temple services; he also asked them to follow him while he was just traveling from one place to the next as well as during difficult times. **The further away we are from lost and broken people, the less we will care about them or impact them.** We will not be able to make disciples of others **if we stay behind locked gates, closed doors, and drawn windows. It requires our ministry of presence.**
5. **We Must Trust the Holy Spirit to Work:** (John 6:63 NLT “The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”) Practically speaking, there is a huge gap for us between the imperatives to “go” and “make disciples.” **And in that gap is where the Holy Spirit does the job of convicting someone of their sin, confirming the message of the gospel, and changing their heart through salvation.** We have a responsibility to *move, teach, and lead* as the hands and feet of Jesus — but then **we have to trust that God will take care of his responsibility to do the saving. Making disciples is not about a program**, although it does require planned, consistent meetings. It does not always follow a curriculum, although it does involve communicating the truth of God’s Word.

## JESUS PREPARES THE DISCIPLES

Thomas Lane Butts



**“When the pupil is ready the teacher will come.”** There is a paradoxical reverse to this saying: **“When the pupil is ready the teacher will go.”** **Students do not become teachers and disciples do not become leaders until the master is gone.** Once one of the disciples marveled at what Jesus was doing and Jesus remarked: “These things you can do and greater things also when I go to the Father.”

“When the student is ready the teacher will appear” - Tao Te Ching and Zen proverb.

### Summary of Messages – Hope Revolution:

- Part One: **Right revolution, wrong throne.** What if your revolution is for the wrong cause?
- Part Two: **Maybe our cause is too small?** Hope is a person NOT a idea or a cause.
- Part Three: **Tag You’re It!** Continuing the revolution that Jesus started.
- Part Four: **This is THE Way.** The hope revolution is a pattern, not a path.
- Part Five: **Prepare for the next one.** It's coming, let's get ready for it.