

Life Under the King's Rule

Advent - Week 3

Randy Hageman

Part of The King is Coming Christmas at Gateway 2023

December 9, 2023



The Bible tells us God always had a plan to defeat the enemy and bring joy and peace to God's people, and though it would begin with a baby, this baby would be so much more - a King!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

—Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

Jesus would teach us how to live under his rule.

1. Go and make disciples. (The Great Commission)

Jesus: '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.'

—Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

Jesus is calling all his followers to be his instruments in helping others become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus: ... 'Follow me...'

—Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

A disciple of Jesus is someone who follows Jesus - who seeks to think, say and do what their master Jesus does, and at its simplest level is imitation.

We don't learn to imitate another through keeping some rules but by building a relationship that enables us to know another and have insights into their character and thinking.

Rules are generally created as a response to something that's *already happened*, as a way to learn from that experience and try to keep it from happening again.

The relationship we have with our master can give us insights and wisdom that rules never could because we've gotten to know him so well through following him, that we've begun to think, act and do as he did.

How do we discern what Jesus *would do* unless we *know* Jesus so well that we can sense where he's leading us in *our* particular situation?

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

—Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Romans 12:2 is how the Holy Spirit transforms us and enables us to produce fruit or results that please God.

Jesus: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever

abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.'

—John 15:5-8 (ESV)

The word “abide” has the sense of staying with, lingering, watching, paying attention, soaking up all there is in a relationship.

Jesus says that, as proof of being his disciples, we will bear fruit, meaning accomplishing work of the Kingdom.

Jesus: ... 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'

—Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

Jesus invited his first converts to follow him in order to become “fishers of men,” disciplers of others, and as they became disciples they then sought to help others become disciples - disciples making disciples, who make disciples.

Jesus was very clear that *he* was taking the initiative in reaching out to others.

Jesus: 'For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.'

—Luke 19:10 (NLT)

If we're following Jesus, we do what he did - we look for folks who can disciple us and folks whom we can disciple.

2. Love God and love others. (The Great Commandment)

Jesus: ... “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

—Matthew (22:37-39 NLT)

Discipleship is really about changing our hearts and lives so that the love of Jesus is always being reflected in and through us.

Jesus: 'So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.'

—John 13:34-35 (NLT)

Love is the proof of our being disciples, and it's also the goal!

The Love of Jesus chooses to accept someone for who they are and sacrificially works for their good.

We can do good and amazing things that benefit others, but if our motivation isn't love, in God's eyes we've done nothing that has lasting, eternal value.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

—1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV)

The Great Commission is part of how we express the love of Jesus, the Great Commandment, into our world today.

The Great Commandment will always matter because it's not simply about what we *do* but who we are.

Love is what life under the King's rule looks like, because God is love and Jesus is love, and through putting our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we are preparing now to be people who will always love.

Next Week: *The Coming of the King... Again!*

