

01 | A Solid Life

THREE STEPS TO DISCIPLE-MAKING

Well, hello, and welcome to Three Steps to Disciple Making. You're going to enjoy this. In fact, I believe that this will be life-changing for you, because this particular series is from the Lord Jesus Himself. He taught this message and we're going to sit on this message for all five steps of this Walk with God. And so, let's pray, and open up your heart to receive and let Jesus minister to you today.

So, Father, we come in Jesus' name. We thank You for the Word of God. And we, especially today, thank You for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask You that by the Holy Spirit, You would speak to us, each of us, in just the right way, so that we would catch not only what Jesus was saying then, but what He's saying to each of us now. And we pray that in Jesus' name, amen.

Alright, we're going to start from Luke 6:46-49. This particular step, or teaching, is called A Solid Life, also known as a disciple. So, let's read this now from Luke 6, and we're going to start at verse 46 and we'll read through verse 49. Here's what Jesus said: "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" It's a great question. "Everyone

who comes to Me and hears My words and does them, I will show you what He is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell and the ruin of that house was great." So notice what Jesus said. He said, "Whoever comes to Me and hears My words and does them is like a man who is building a house." Well, this house is really your life. He's saying some people build their life on a foundation that's solid, and other people build their life without a foundation. And the difference is, some people come to Jesus, and they hear His words and they do what He tells them to do, and that makes them solid and other people don't.

Now, I want to look at this same passage, this same teaching from Jesus, but from a different gospel, from Matthew 7. And let's pick it up in the 24th verse. Here's what Jesus said: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken Him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the wind blew

and beat on that house; and it fell." And listen to this last line that Jesus said, "And great was its fall." And great was its fall. So, Jesus taught very clearly that there are two categories of people. There are people that come to Him and listen to what He has to say and follow what He says. And then there are people who don't. And He said, the people who don't are foolish; and they may be intelligent, they may be educated, they may have degrees, they may make a ton of money. They may have houses all over the world. They may have plenty of cars, they may have a lot of friends, and nice clothes, and everything about them looks successful. But Jesus said they're foolish, because they're just living as if this life is all there is. They're not living as if God is real. They're not living as if there's a judgment at the end of the age. They're not living as if their life could matter for important things. And instead, they're squandering their life and just doing things that will get them ahead in people's eyes, or get them ahead financially, or make them look good or make them feel good, but they're not really doing any good. And Jesus is saying at the end of the age, they're going to be embarrassed, humiliated, and judged for that, because they paid no attention to the creator.

Jesus, according to John 1, is the creator of all things. John 1:3 says, "All things were made by Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." And so, what I love about this is that Jesus gives us the key to being solid, to being disciples, to being people, that when

the storms of life come, they can't take us out. And it's simple. He gives us three simple steps. He said, "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My words and does them..." That's it, it's very simple. Now, of course, it's simple, but that doesn't mean it's easy. Because coming to Jesus and doing what He says to do also means that you're not doing what you want to do, or you're not doing what your friends tell you to do, or somebody else tells you to do, because you've given your life to Jesus.

When I caught this as a young man, this changed my life--forever. When I was a teenager, I was raised to love God and to know Jesus. But when I was a teenager, and going to public high school, playing football all four years, wrestling all four years, I was around the guys a lot. Well, being in the locker room, I was hearing so much perversity about what people were doing with their girlfriends or whatever, what they were watching, pornography, and the way that they talked, you know, words paint pictures. And even though I wasn't doing all those things, I was in the environment, those words were coming into my ears, they were going down into my heart. They were painting these pictures. And before I knew it, like Jesus said, out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Now my mouth is speaking things--things that I wasn't even involved with. But I was telling the jokes and making the comments. James says your body follows your tongue. And Proverbs says he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil. And, oh, my goodness, this is what happened to me. Before I knew it, evil spirits of lust had a

grip on me. I found myself addicted, and I didn't want it. Just because you're addicted, that doesn't mean you want it. A lot of people say, "Well, they made a choice." Well, yeah, choices were made. Sometimes people made choices for us. However, once you're addicted, once you're bound, once you're caught, then you need freedom. You need deliverance. And I didn't know how to be free. However, Jesus taught me how to be free. And how did He do it? He did it with His words. He did it with the Bible, the Word of God.

For example, I found Proverbs 4:25, and it says, "Let your eyes look straight ahead and your eyelids look right before you." See, my eyes, were like so many other people's eyes. Like most people, I would think, I had a tendency to look over here and look over there at whoever it was that looked good, whatever young lady that I thought was attractive. And I'm looking, checking them out and such, not realizing that whenever I'm doing that, I'm bringing that into my heart. See, the eyes and the ears are the gates to the heart. And so whatever I'm bringing into my eyes, whatever I'm bringing into my ears, it goes down into my heart. And so, if I keep looking at things that my eyes like to look at, well, then that gets down into my heart. And then, it's like seeds that grow up, and then when they grow up, then you have to deal with it. And what happened is I just kept looking at things, and hearing things, and it grew up, and I was dealing with lust. Well, God began to change me and deliver me. But Jesus had to teach me, you have to control your eyes. You can't keep

drinking poison and expect not to get sick. So, I came to Jesus, and He showed me these different principles of life. And I caught this Scripture, "Let your eyes look straight ahead and your eyelids look right before you." And the Lord taught me, "Hey, when your eyes tend to look at something they shouldn't be looking at, bounce your eyes somewhere else, and look somewhere else, at something wholesome, something that's not going to plant those seeds in your heart that you don't want."

Well, here's another thing. Jesus delivered me from selfishness. I hate to admit it, but I was selfish. And that selfishness would have absolutely ruined my life. You know, if you live life as a selfish person, then you alienate people. You disenfranchise people. And you wonder, why don't I have more friends? Well, it's because not realizing it, you think about yourself more than other people. Because when you're thinking about other people and loving them, blessing them, serving them, listening to them, instead of talking so much, and when they do tell a story, they're saying something, you're engaged with that story. You're listening actively. You're interested in what they're talking about. When you are selfless and when you love people, then people are drawn to you because you make them feel loved, and encouraged, and valued. But when people can tell that you want to talk about yourself, you want to talk about what you like, you want to do what you like, you want to eat what you like, and it's all about you, well, pretty soon they realize, man, this is a one-sided relationship, and they're not so much

interested in hanging around. Well, God delivered me from selfishness. That doesn't mean that I'm never selfish, because I am. However, I used to be a lot more selfish. James 3:16 is one of those passages where Jesus taught me and said this: "Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there." So, the Lord taught me that if you allow that envy in your heart, envy like, "I wish I had what that person had. Why didn't I get that promotion? Why didn't I get this? Why can't I do that? What about me? What do I like?" He said, where envy and self-seeking exist, there's confusion and every evil thing. So, you create an environment around you that's confusing. People are confused. They argue, and evil things are there, bad spirits, conflict is around you, and the Lord taught me selfishness causes that.

And so, thank God for these words, because Jesus said, "Whoever comes to Me and hears my words and does them..." So, when I began to see these words of wisdom, these words of life, and began to say, "I'm not going to be like that. I'm going to follow the Word of God. I'm going to do it the way the Bible says to do," my life started changing, and the environment around me started changing. The people around me started responding differently to me, and I quickly caught on, even as a young man, a teenager--oh, my goodness! Like, this is good, this is true. This is what Jesus talked about. Whoever comes to Me and hears My words and does them, will be a person that's on solid ground. And when the storms of life come and rock everybody else, wash other people's lives

away--just devastate people--it won't happen to us, disciples, because we're on the Word of God. We're living according to the wisdom of the ages.

Well, here's another thing Jesus delivered me from: laziness. Oh, it's another embarrassing thing! Who wants to admit that they're lazy? Nobody! And back then, I didn't want to admit it, but I was so lazy. I did not want to get out of bed until I was ready. I mean, till I just slept and slept and slept and slept. I slept the sleep off, if I could say it like that. I was lazy and I would see something that needs to be done. The trash needs to be taken out, my pants need to be picked up from the floor, and I'd just walk past it. And just not proactive. Not assertive. Lazy. Lazy! And I'm telling you, the Lord Jesus, through the Word of God, taught me and helped me to break that spirit of laziness. Let me give you one passage that really helped me. Of course, it discouraged me a little bit, because it spoke the truth. But listen to what it says in Proverbs 24:30-34, Solomon said, "I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one who has no common sense..." Notice, lazy people don't have common sense. It goes on to say, "I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down." Now, what does that mean? That means the lazy person sees things to do. I got to pull these weeds. I got to get these thorns out of the way. There's a wall broken there; I've got to get that wall fixed. I've got to repair that. But no, the lazy person just says, "I'll do it later." Procrastinate or "manaña,"

you know? Later on. No, we're supposed to take care of things. We see it, let's take care of it. Well, I'm tired. Well, okay. Then you'll do it in the morning, right? Or you'll do it tomorrow afternoon, right? No. The lazy person does not get it done. It just goes on and on and on. And then something else breaks. And then more weeds grow up, and something else goes wrong, and more trash is put there. And this is the life of the lazy person. And so, Solomon, the wisest man who had lived at that time, had ever lived at that time, until the Lord Jesus Christ came, said, "I walked by the field of the lazy man, and this is the way it was. It was dilapidated, it was unmanicured. Nobody was repairing anything. Nobody was cutting any grass, or weeds, or anything." And he went on to say in verse 32, "Then as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber."

Now, what is Solomon saying? Solomon saying, you know, if you just let yourself just, "Oh, I just need a little more sleep..." So, the alarm goes off, and you just keep hitting the snooze button, snooze button, snooze another 9 minutes, or whatever it is. And Solomon said, "Yeah, just a little more sleep, just another nap. Let me just fold my hands here and take a rest." He said little by, little by, by little of living like that, and they're not big decisions, but they're just little decisions. But he said, when you live like

that, little by little, a little more sleep here, a little more sleep there, and you just can't get yourself to move. He said, here's what's going to happen. Poverty is going to pounce on you like a bandit. What does that mean? It's going to sneak up on you and jump on your life before you knew what was happening. And all of a sudden, you are in poverty. You are struggling. You are in debt. You are behind and you don't know what to do. He said that's what happens to the person that lives like that. And then he said, scarcity, or lack, will attack you like an armed robber. What does that mean? An armed robber has a weapon. And so, you have no defense against it. In other words, this is going to happen to you, and it's going to happen fast, it's going to surprise you. And when you try to retaliate, when you try to defend yourself, you will have no defense. Why? Because you let this happen. How? Because you were lazy again, and again, and again. Oh, when I started seeing these words, I realized, "Oh, that's me; I'm headed for poverty." And I was already kind of in poverty at the time. I was just a young man and didn't have a good job or anything like that. However, I knew if I don't get a hold of this laziness, then this will chase me down, and I'll struggle for the rest of my life. And so, as a young man, I began to call out to God and say, "Lord, I see these words. These words are teaching me something. These words are giving me wisdom." And I began to tell myself, "You're not going to be lazy. No, you're going to be assertive. You're going to be proactive." And so, I remember that I prayed for a certain job, and God got me that job.

And I'm telling you, I worked hard. In fact, I was determined to be the hardest-working person at that company. And when I left that job, that company, about three or four years later, my boss told me, "You were the best employee I had." And, oh, that felt so good to me, coming from laziness.

And what changed my life? It was these words. And let me just give you a little additional hint about how well it went on that job when I was a young man. There were a number of employees, and everybody would put in every week (the schedule of everybody's hours would come out every week) and everybody would put in if they wanted a day off here or a shift off there. And I would put mine in, and I would almost always get exactly the shift I wanted and have exactly the days off that I wanted. And other people would not, and they would be so angry, and then they would say, "You got that off. I asked for that day off!" But I would always get it off. Why is that? Because I was valuable to the company. I wasn't the smartest person necessarily. But, I can tell you this, I had learned from the words of God, from the Bible. I'd learned that if I'll be proactive and assertive, and be on top of it and not procrastinate like everybody else, not stand around in the breakroom when the boss wasn't watching, when I was supposed to be working ... there was chit-chatting and talking. No, I'd walk right past those people that were doing that, and I'd work and do my job. And let me tell you, they didn't think the boss noticed the difference, but the boss noticed the difference. And I wasn't kissing

up to the boss either. I wasn't. I was just trying to do exactly what God's Word taught me to do. And I'm telling you, I kept getting promoted again, and again, and again, and I had such favor, and this is that solid life. So when the store had to cut people down, guess what? I didn't get laid off. See, the storm didn't get me, because I was on solid ground. I was on the words of God.

This is exactly what Jesus is talking about. He says, "If you'll just listen to Me, this is what I'll do for you. I'll make your life so solid, because My words are words of wisdom. My words are words of significance and they're of eternal value." They have the wisdom of the ages in them because they're from God Himself. Well, God also delivered me from dishonesty, you know, and I wasn't like a big liar. But, you know, just here and there, if I needed to cover myself, I'd just not quite tell the truth. But, oh man, I began to look at the words of God, like Proverbs 6:16-19 says, "There are six things the Lord hates-- no, seven things He detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family." So, notice that two of the seven things that God detests are lying. God hates lying, and Revelation also says all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire. Well, man, when you take God's Word seriously, you realize, I have to repent of lying and not allow that in my life, because it's deadly, even eternally devastating.

Well, God also helped me not to be so argumentative. I'm telling you, I would argue, and argue, and argue anything. And today, I feel like I can still stand up for things that are right; I can stand up for righteous causes or truth. However, I can let things go that are just not worth arguing about. It's okay, just let it go. It's not a big deal. And I learned from passages like 2 Timothy 2:24, where Paul said to Timothy, "A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient..." And so I realized I can't be that arguing person and be a servant of the Lord. That's just not the way God is.

God also delivered me from being in overwhelming debt. Now, I wasn't in a ton of debt when I was a young man and God began to show his Word to me. But I can tell you this, I was undisciplined with finances, and the only reason why I wasn't in a lot of debt is because I didn't have a lot of credit. Once I got credit, oh man, the debt could pile up. But the Lord taught me things like, for example, Proverbs 22:7, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." And the Lord said, "Do you want to be the leader, or do you want to be the servant, the slave? Do you want to be the head, or do you want to be the tail?" Because if you're just going to borrow (and it doesn't mean that borrowing is a sin); I don't believe that getting the loan is a sin at all. I don't think the Bible teaches that. I don't think I've heard anybody say that the Bible teaches that. However, the Bible does teach that it's much wiser not to borrow, but to live within your

means and to work hard to increase your income, so to speak, as appropriate, doing what God has called you to do, and then saving and not having to borrow. So, in fact, Deuteronomy 28 says you'll be the lender and not the borrower. Well, when I began to find these words and the Holy Spirit--this is what's so powerful about the Holy Spirit--He will help you understand. Some people say, and I think I used to say it when I was young, "You know, I don't understand the Bible. I read it, but I don't understand it." Oh, let me tell you! You have a friend in the Holy Spirit, and He will sit right there with you. I don't care how young you are. I don't care how educated you are. You may have difficulty reading. You may have difficulty learning. Or some kind of a disability that keeps you from reading or comprehending. But I encourage you, don't even say that anymore. Don't even declare that; not that is not true, but begin to say, "Holy Spirit, thank You for helping me to understand these words."

And Jesus told me if I will come to Him, if I will hear His words, and if I will do them, then I'll be on a solid foundation in my life. And when the storms come and wash other people away, they won't wash me away, because I've learned to live my life doing the Word of God, and I'm solid on the Word. And friend, let me just tell you right now, this is what the Lord wants to do with you. This is what He's bringing to you; this is what being a disciple is all about. Jesus wants us to follow Him, and the way you follow Him is by following His words, being obedient to Him, and taking His words seriously, as if they're important, as

if they matter. Let me say this, this is so good: if you'll do the words of Jesus, you'll become like Him. Because that's the way He lives. And you'll be solid, and you'll end up blessing a lot of other people, because that's what Jesus does.

And so, let's pray right now. Would you open your heart? Would you pray as I'm praying and say to Jesus, "Lord, I want to do this, I want my life to be on solid ground. I want to come and hear Your words and I want to discern them. I want to understand them and walk in them. But I need Your strength. I need Your help because I'm not always doing it. And even when I know what to do, I don't always do it." He understands that, but ask Him to help you. Let Him know that you want to do that, and invite the Holy Spirit to strengthen you to be able to become the solid life, that disciple, that Jesus wants you to be. So, let's pray together. And as I pray, you pray, Father, we come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I pray with this person watching or listening right now to this message,- or even reading this message, I pray by the power of the Holy Spirit that you will not only enlighten them to what Jesus is teaching us throughout the rest of these teachings, but I pray that you strengthen them, help them to do what they couldn't do before. Lord, You did it for me. Oh, I was so weak. I was so lazy. I was so bound, so addicted. And you came when I invited You. And You helped me, You taught me, You strengthened me. As a little lamb in your flock, as a person who invited You to come in, You came. And I pray that You would do that

for this person. Help them to become exactly who You've called them to be, in Jesus' name, amen. There's Step One, and I look forward to seeing you for Step Two.