

## **04 | Hear His Word**

### **THREE STEPS TO DISCIPLE MAKING**

All right, well welcome to step four of Three Steps to Disciple Making. Remember, this is not only for you to come to Jesus, to hear His words, and to do them, but this is for us helping the new believers. People that we have won to Jesus, baptized in water, and we begin to disciple them. We tell them what an amazing life you will have if you will learn to come to Jesus, if you'll listen to Him, obey His words, that He enriches your life. So let's pray and then let's jump into this passage where Jesus has been teaching us in this series. So, Father, thank You for the Word of God. Thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ. He's our Savior. He's our wisdom. He's our guide. He's our shepherd. He's our provider. And Lord, we thank You for the teaching Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who enlightens us to what Jesus is saying. Help each of us to grasp truth that will change us today. In Jesus name, we pray, amen.

Okay, so let's come back to this foundational passage here in Luke chapter six, verses 46 to 49. And here's what Jesus said. He said, "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Whoever comes to Me (or everyone who comes to Me), and here is 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 Jesus is teaching us here really how to be a disciple, how to be a follower of Jesus, how to be a believer. What do we do? We come to Jesus and we hear His words and we do them. We obey them. And that's what being a believer is all about. Somebody says, "What about salvation?" Yes, He saves us. He died for our sins; He cleanses us from all of our sin. If we if we do sin, when we do sin I should say, because we all sin, when you do sin, you confess that as a sin, He cleans you up, washes you again. However, the way that we live for Jesus is not just confessing sin and then sinning and confessing sin. No, but obeying Him, "whoever comes to Me and hears My words and does them." So, we talked in the last teaching about whoever comes, but this time we're going to take part two, "whoever hears My words." Whoever comes to me and hears My words, hears My words. So we're going to focus on hearing, and this is an important one.

Now I want to look at a passage that's very precious to me, special to me, because God has spoken to me through this passage over the years, many, many times, and taught

me again and again how to come to Jesus and hear from Him and to be changed. Listen to Proverbs four versus 20 to 22. This is where God says, "My son," and this would include all of you ladies, my daughter, "My son, give attention to My words." Well, that sounds just like what Jesus said. "Whoever comes to me and hears My words." "My son, give attention to my words," give attention, "incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes, keep them in the midst of your heart. For they," my words, "are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh." Let me read it again. "My son, give attention to my words." Don't just read my words, don't just hear My words, son, give attention. Pay attention. Think about them. What am I saying? Think about what I'm saying. Give your attention to My words. You know, it's easy to hear somebody but not hear them. To listen, but not really catch to understand. We just let it go in one ear and out the other. But God is saying no my son, give attention to My words. Incline your ear. Notice this, incline your ear. Incline your ear. What does that mean? Our ears will not always be inclined to the word of God. We may want to hear this, listen to that music. Be around our friends, listening to other things. And He's saying "Son, you, incline your ear, coerce your ear, let your ear know. No, you're going to listen to God's words. You're going to read the word. You're going to listen to the word." Like what you're doing right now. You're reading, or listening to, or watching this teaching. You're inclining your ear to this teaching.

So He said, "Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them (My words, My sayings) depart from your eyes." In other words, we need to have our eyes on the Word of God. "Do not let them depart from your eyes, keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh." God's words are so powerful, they will cause your life to become alive. God's words are so powerful, they will cause your body to be healed and healthy. That's how powerful the words of God are. We know that's true because Jesus would say to sick people, "be healed." To lame people, "rise and walk." And those words would bring the healing to them. God is saying, "Take My words. Get them into your ears. Get them into your eyes. Get them into your heart, because they're life to those who find them and health all their flesh.".

So, it would be like this. I think of how often maybe someone in landscaping is going to plant a new tree in a yard. And often those trees are slender, you know, maybe only an inch, or an inch and a half in diameter. And so, they plant those trees, but you know, if there's a heavy wind, that wind will knock that tree over, or if kids are running and they run into that tree, that little tree that's freshly planted, only an inch or an inch and a half thick, oh, they can knock that tree over, uproot it from the ground and such. But often what landscapers will do, is they'll drive to wooden stakes that are thicker in diameter, they'll drive two wooden stakes on either side of that

tree, and then they'll tie that tree to those stakes. So, when the wind comes, the tree may have a tendency or a vulnerability to blow over, but because it's tied to those wooden stakes, it won't. Those stakes hold it solid, and this is exactly what the Lord is saying about the Word. He's saying, "My words are so solid. My words are truth. My words are immovable. They came from My heart. They have My power on them. And if you will tie your life to My Word, if you'll get My Words inside of you and tie yourself to them and say, 'I'm going to live what these words say, I'm going to obey God and do these words'" He said, "Then your life will become like that. You'll become solid like that, and you won't struggle with things that other people struggle with."

Now, let's talk about hearing. Jesus that whoever comes to me and here's my words and does them. But let's talk about hearing. Hearing is the most important and powerful way to receive the Word of God. Reading with your eyes is important and powerful, and we just read in Proverbs four, "Do not let my words depart from your eyes" so we know that's important. And just thinking of the Word, we know that's important. But hearing is so powerful, there's something about what we hear that influences us. And so God is saying, and Jesus is saying, "If you'll come and hear." Hearing is influential. Things we hear influence us. Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 13 verses 14 and 15. He was talking about people who are listening, but they're not paying attention. They hear, but

they really don't hear. He said, "In them, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand and seeing you will see and not perceive. For the hearts of this, people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turned so that I should heal them.'" So notice, here's Jesus explaining, there are people who are not going to be healed, they're not going to be delivered from addictions to pornography, to drugs, to alcohol, to anger, to depression, to prescription medication, things that bind your life. They're not going to be healed. They're not going to be healed from sicknesses and diseases. Why? He said, "Because when I was speaking to them, when they came to My Word, when they were listening to the messages, reading the Bible at church, hearing the word or whatever they were hearing, but they weren't hearing in their hearts. They were dull of hearing. They became spiritually deaf so that the words were just like, Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And they just didn't catch what I was saying." And He said, "Because if they would really catch it, if they would really hear what I'm saying in their hearts, and turn, and start doing what I said, I would heal them. The power of God would be released. But because they haven't done that and they didn't take to heart what I was saying, they're not taking it to heart, then they're not healed. They're not delivered

from that lust, that addiction to pornography. They're not delivered from that disease, or that sickness, or that relationship or that environment, or that job that is just sucking the life out of them. They're not getting the promotion that they need to have and that God wants them to have. No, because they're not listening. They're listening to everything else. And this is just like blah, blah, blah, blah, blah." But He said, "No, but if they'll open their heart and say, 'God, I need to understand what You're saying, reveal these words to me, help me to understand.'".

Oh, responding to the Word of God, hearing and responding to the word of God makes all the difference in the world. Let me read to you a story in the Bible about this. This is all over the Bible, but here's one of my favorites. It's from Mark chapter five, beginning in verse 25. And here's what it says, "Now, a certain woman had a flow of blood for 12 years." So here's a lady that did not have her normal cycle, but she kept bleeding, and bleeding, and bleeding, every day. There was something wrong with her physiologically. There was something wrong in her body. And it says she had a flow of blood for 12 years. Can you imagine how weak she would feel? Probably anemic. Man, it just takes the energy out of you. And it said she had this going on for 12 years and it said "she suffered many things from many physicians." Why? Because they're practicing. They're saying, "try this, try that." And not only was she suffering from this problem that

she had physically, but now she's suffering from the attempts to solve it. She suffered many things from many physicians. And it said "And she spent all she had and was no better, but rather grew worse." So not only that, but she spent every last bit of savings, every last bit of money that she had to try to get better on physicians, on whatever therapy or whatever medical help was available. And not only was she now broke, but she wasn't any better. She actually was worse than before she spent all that money and tried everything. Well, this lady's in a bad situation. You can imagine she's so discouraged. But watch verse 27, it says, "When she heard about Jesus." So obviously someone told her that Jesus was teaching and He was healing people. And when she heard about Jesus, she acted on what she heard. It said "she came behind Him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, 'If I may touch His clothes, if only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.'" See, she took to heart what she had heard. She acted on what she heard. It wasn't just "blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, okay, religious stuff, okay, just whatever about God or Jesus." No, she took it to heart. She acted on it in faith. And she said, "If I can get a hold of His clothes, if I can touch His clothes, I shall be made well," and notice verse 29, "Immediately." Oh, I love this, "immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up." That bleeding stopped immediately. And she felt it in her body. She could feel it in her body that she was healed of that affliction. And Jesus immediately knowing in



Himself that power had gone out from Him, He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes? But his disciples said to Him, 'You see the multitude thronging you Lord.'" A lot of people are touching You, "'You see the multitude thronging you. Why do you say who touched me?' They asked." And verse 32 is when Jesus looked around to see her who had done this thing. "But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him, and told the whole truth. And He said to her, "daughter your faith has made you well, go in peace and be healed of your affliction.'" So notice He said "your faith made you well." Your faith made you well. Well, where did she get that faith?

Well, Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." So then faith comes by hearing. Faith comes by hearing. So when we hear the words of Jesus, when we hear the word of God, it causes us to believe it. And then when we act on what we believe, the power of God is released. See friends, this is the miracle. Don't live like a regular human being. Don't live like a mere believer. No, live as one who believes in these words so much that you act on them in faith, and the power of God is released, and you watch your life excel. You watch the promotions come. You watch the advancements come, the victories, the breakthroughs that other people want but they don't get but you do. And people will think, "Well, what? Why are you so lucky?" Well it's not luck. No, it's what Jesus said, "You came

to Me and you heard what I said to the point that you did it." This is what's so powerful. God wants us, and Jesus wants us to come and to hear His words, and to do them. And let me tell you, the power of God goes into operation. Do you want to live a natural life or do you want to live a supernatural life? Life in Jesus is a supernatural life. It doesn't mean that we don't have any problems because we do, like everybody else. And sometimes we have more because persecution might come against us. But nonetheless, we're still solid because we're living on the Words of Jesus.

Let me show you another story from Acts chapter 14. And this is about a miraculous healing that happened, but it happened through hearing. In Acts 14, beginning at verse eight, it says, "And in Lystra," this is a city, "a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb who had never walked." Here's a guy that from birth was never able to learn to walk. He had some kind of a with problem with his legs, or his spine, or something, to where he just never had been able to walk. You can imagine that in his psyche, in his mind, he would hope he could walk, but he had just capitulated. He had just succumbed to the idea that "I'll never be able to walk." But something changed while Paul, the apostle Paul, was preaching the word. He was preaching the words of God. And those words went into this crippled man's ears, and down into his heart. And what happened? He began to think. "Oh, man. if that's true, I could

be healed. If what Paul is preaching from the Word of God about Jesus as our healer, and our deliverer, I could be healed." And it said in verse nine, "This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And the man leaped up and started walking." Can you believe this? This is the power of God. How did this happen? Well, somehow, he was in the right place at the right time, and Paul was preaching the word, and this man heard, and this man believed, and this man, when Paul said, "Stand up on your feet," this man started trying to stand up. And what happened? The power of the living God came into his legs, into his back, into his spine, into his nerves, into his muscles, into his bones. And this man not only was able to walk, but he didn't even have to go through the normal coordination process. He just leaped and walked by the power of God. Folks, why would we wait to try to do things ourselves when Jesus is promising us, "If you come to Me and hear My words and do them, your life will be advanced by My power." This is the best life you could ever live.

So, how do you hear the words of Jesus? And this is what I want to focus on as we close today. How do you hear the words of Jesus? Somebody said, "Well, how do I hear those words? He's not here, right? So how do I hear them?" Well, He is here, in His presence by the Holy Spirit. But yes, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in

heaven physically. But listen to what Hebrews four, 12 and 13 say, "For the Word of God," now that's talking about the Word of God, this is the Bible, "For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." But notice this, it's talking about the Word of God, but notice how it flows into the next verse, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight." Wait a minute, His sight? I thought we were talking about the Word of God. We are. But did you know that Jesus is called the Word of God? The Bible says in John chapter one, verse 14, "The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father." So, the Word of God is Jesus and Jesus is the Word. How exactly that works, don't worry about it. The fact is, it's true. When you're hearing from the word of God, you're hearing the words of Jesus because Jesus is the word of God. And so how do you hear the words of Jesus? You hear the Bible, the word of God, all these promises, these instructions, the wisdom that comes through the Bible. This is how you do it, because He is the Word of God.

So let me give you just a few ways that we can hear the words of Jesus. Number one, reading the Bible. Reading the Bible. We should read our Bibles every day. First, Timothy 4:13 is where Paul said to Timothy, "Until I get there, focus on reading the scriptures to the church." Back then they

didn't have personal Bibles, they were in scrolls. Because they didn't have printing presses, the scriptures were copied letter by letter, by hand, and so they didn't have copies for everybody. So you would have to go to a place where they were gathering, and they would have scriptures there to be read. And Paul said, "Until I come focus on the reading of Scripture." So that's one way, we read our Bibles, and then we're listening to what God is saying through the reading of Scripture. But here's another way, listening. Some of you are listening right now. Maybe you're watching the video, or you're listening, or maybe you're just listening to the audio, or maybe you're reading a script. Well, if you read it out loud, you can listen. There's something powerful about hearing. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So there's a premium on hearing. And remember, Proverbs 4:20 says, "My son, give attention to my words, and incline your ear to my sayings." So another way to hear the words of the Lord is by doing exactly that. You can read the Bible out loud and hear, you can listen to people reading the Bible out loud, and they have apps and Bible programs that can speak it audibly. You can listen to the teaching of God's word like you're doing right now, and these are ways that we can listen to and hear the Words of Jesus. And then there's meditating. Meditating is a combination of speaking the Word while you're thinking about it. You're speaking it. And of course, if you're speaking it, you're also hearing. So meditation is really the most powerful thing

because you're speaking the Words of God, you're hearing what you're speaking, and you're thinking about it. You're thinking about it. In Psalm one, the first three verses, it says this, "Blessed" or let me just say it this way, "Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel," the words, "of the wicked, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers." People who are making fun of people, and they're just, you know, pretty sharp with their tongue, laughing and all of that. He said, "Blessed is the person who doesn't hang around those people or listen to what they're saying." Verse two, "But his delight," whose delight? The blessed person, the "Blessed persons delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law," this is the Bible, "on His law, he meditates day and night," and this word meditate means to ponder while you're talking it to yourself. You're saying certain verses and phrases over, and over, and over, and you're thinking about it. You're seeking to grasp what's being said by God. And he said, the "blessed person is one who meditates day and night on His Word. And he," that blessed person, "shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water which yields fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. And whatever he does," whatever that person does, he "prosperes." So if you want to be this type of person that's fruitful, that you're victorious, you're seeing promotion, you're advancing, you're fulfilling the calling of God on your life. Well, this is what you do. Instead of hanging around and listening to the wicked, and the scoffers,

and people that are ungodly. No, we spend our time meditating in the Word of God, hearing the Word. And this is, by the way, what changed my life as a young person. Nobody had to tell me to shut off the TV, I was so desperate to be changed by God. The TV was off, all secular music was off. Oh, I can't listen to all that stuff. Not hanging around with those friends anymore. But I was reading the Bible, not just daily, but multiple times a day. I was listening to the teaching of God's Word, somebody teaching the Bible, not just anybody, but people that believe these promises were true. Teaching the Word of God to me all the time and meditating. I would, even as a teenager, an older teenager when this change happened in my life, I'd walk around my bedroom and I would begin to quote verses like second Corinthians 5:21, "For God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for me, that I might become the righteousness of God in Him." I'm the righteousness of God. I'm not a sinner. I'm not bound to lust and addiction anymore. No, I'm delivered. I'm the righteousness of God. It says in verse 17 of that same chapter, "If anyone's in Christ he's a new creation." Oh, of a new creation. "Old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." And I began to say that, and the more I meditated on it, and the more I thought about it, the more I spoke it out with my mouth and heard myself say it, the more I believed that this is true, and that this was happening to me. And the more I said it, and the more I believed it, the more it happened. And before you knew it, over a period of time, I got completely delivered

from all those addictions. I got completely set free, the confidence came. And now, I was walking as if I was righteous. I could hardly believe it because I was so bound and so insecure and so lonely, I could hardly believe that that would happen to me. But Jesus said, "If you'll do this, if you come and you'll hear My words and you'll do what I'm telling you to do, this is what will happen." And friends, it happened. And it didn't just happen once for me, it happened again and again in different parts of my life. By coming back to His word, hearing His words, and walking out the word of God. So this is what God wants for you. The more you hear God's Word, the more you'll think like God. The more you hear God's Word, the more you'll think like God.

And let me close with Isaiah 55:8-11. This is where God says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My way, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down and snow from heaven and do not return there, but water the earth and make it bring forth and bud that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater. So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth, it shall not return to be void, but it shall accomplish what I please and prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Let me summarize that for you. God said, "You know, you and I don't think alike. And your ways are not like My ways. But that's why I sent My word. I sent My word from My



mouth down to the earth, and if you'll allow My words to get into your heart, the soil of your heart, like seeds being sown, and like the rain and snow that comes down from heaven and water the seeds." He said, "My words in your heart will grow up and you'll begin to think like Me. Your ways of living will be like My ways of living." This is what God is saying. This is what Jesus is saying, "Come to Me, hear My words, and begin to do My words. It'll grow up inside of you and before you know it, you'll be acting like Jesus. You'll be talking like Jesus. You'll be thinking like Jesus." Your ways weren't like God, your thoughts weren't like God, but now, because His words keep coming in, and coming in, and you're being saturated with Him speaking, Him speaking, Him speaking. You are changed. His words change us, and make us become like Him. And this is what God is doing with you. This is why you're in this walk with God, why you're taking these steps. He's changing you.

Let's pray that right now, before we end, would you say out loud, "Lord, thank You for changing me by Your word. I thank You for Your word. I thank You for the promises of God. I thank You for teaching me how to become solid, how to be healed, how to be provided for, how to have a solid life, a solid marriage, solid relationships, how to be a whole person and how to be delivered from addiction, how to be healed and restored from injuries and pain from the past. Thank You, Lord. Through Your words, You cause all of these things to happen." And see if you'll

keep thinking like that and believing like that, then God will do exactly what He said He will do. The power of God will go into operation and you will be a solid life. And let me just say again, make sure to teach everybody you disciple, that this is what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's the best life you could ever live. All right, one more step, I'll see you for step five.

