

Messages on Discipleship

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1. The Disciple's Devotion

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Mark 1:35-39

Introduction

The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)

1. The Focus on Discipleship

- 1.1 The accounts of the Great Commission have different points of foci:
 - a) Matthew – Make disciples of all nations
 - b) Mark – Preach the Gospel to all
 - c) Luke and Acts – The power of the Holy Spirit, repentance and forgiveness
 - d) John – Sent as Jesus was sent
- 1.2 Matthew's Focus is on discipleship teaching that:
 - a) We are not only to be disciples, but we are to make disciples
 - b) We make disciples by going; baptizing; and teaching obedience to Jesus' commands/instructions.

2. The example of Jesus' Devotional Life (mark 1:35-3)

- 2.1 He got up early in the morning, before the day began.
- 2.2 He found a place where he was alone and private
- 2.3 He prayed.

So when the disciples arrived, excited by people's response, Jesus ignored that and followed the direction He'd received from the Father and continued in His mission or calling.

Proposition:

Being a disciple of Jesus begins by following His example of Daily Devotions

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

An Unfamiliar Term today

1. The reason that we don't understand

- 1.1 It's not part of our common daily language in society
- 1.2 We no longer have a biblical idea of discipleship; we have a "churched" idea e.g. a series of bible doctrines.

2. Jesus' idea

- 2.1 The Greek word "Mathetes" means a learner, but it conveys more than just the idea of learning. It is more than a pupil, scholar or student. It's more like an apprentice.
- 2.2 The key to the idea of Jesus in the New Testament is essentially of a relationship with Him in which we learn from Him by following Him and applying what He teaches (Matt. 20:20; 4:19 etc).
- 2.3 So when Jesus spoke about making disciples, He was thinking about a "learner-follower" – someone that learns and applies that truth in their lives. I don't believe He was talking about "church-goers."

How does a Disciple begin to follow Jesus today?

1. The lessons from Isaiah 50:4-11

- 1.1 What and how to speak
 - a) The tongue of a disciple / learner is a trained ability to speak. This training refers to the work of the Holy Spirit, not public speaking. It is appropriate to helping people.
 - b) It comforts and sustains the weary (see Eph. 4:29).
- 1.2 What and how to hear
 - a) The difference between learning and being taught.
 - b) Jesus wants us to teach others to obey His authoritative instructions (Matt. 28:20 lit. to carefully heed).
- 1.3 How to respond
 - a) A Daily awakening – lit. open eyes in the sense of being aroused, stirred up and motivated.
 - b) Negative responses are that of disobedience and turning away from or pulling back.

2. 4 Keys:

- 2.1 The fear of God
- 2.2 Obedience
- 2.3 Walking
- 2.4 Faith as trust and reliance on the Lord

Conclusion

The Key is to awaken to His voice every morning in a time of real or true devotion

