

All This Matters

There's So Much More To Following Jesus
July 3, 2022

Matthew 28:19 Go & make *disciples* of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & the Son & the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new *disciples* to obey all the commands I have given you...

Daily habits & practices of being a Jesus follower. A disciple.

Come - *Near* to Jesus; *Hear* - Pay Attention; *Do* - Obey, Practice

John 13:34b MSG “...*Love one another*. In the same way I loved you, you *love one another*. This is how everyone will recognize that you are *My disciples*—when they *see the love you have for each other*.”

Dallas Willard - “*The greatest issue facing the world today, w/ all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who are identified as Christians will become disciples-students, apprentices, practitioners of Jesus, steadily learning from Him, how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.*”

The Greatest Disciples Are the Greatest Servants

How do you serve God? By serving others. When you do something that makes someone else's life better in some way, you're serving God.

Matthew 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, & you fed me. I was thirsty, & you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, & you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, & you gave me clothing. I was sick, & you cared for me. I was in prison, & you visited me.’ 37 “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry & feed you? Or thirsty & give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger & show you hospitality? Or naked & give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison & visit you?’ 40 “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers & sisters, you were doing it to me!’ 41 “Then the King will turn to those on the left & say, ‘Away w/ you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil & his demons. 42 I was hungry & you didn't feed me. I was thirsty & you didn't give me a drink. 43 I was a

stranger, & you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, & you didn't give me clothing. I was sick & in prison, & you didn't visit me.' 44 "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, & not help you?' 45 "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers & sisters, you were refusing to help me.' 46 "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

Some people serve out of guilt, duty, or pressure. But God wants us to serve out of gratitude for what He's done for us. He made us, He saved us, & He's taking us to heaven. Gratitude is the best motivator to serve.

Disciples are committed to lay their life down for people.

John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal, kill & destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich & satisfying life. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He'll abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him, & he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them & scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money & doesn't really care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, & they know Me, 15 just as my Father knows Me & I know the Father. So, I sacrifice My life for the sheep.

When we lose ourselves in service to people, we find all we ever desire.

**Disciples are moved w/ COMPASSION/LOVE for people.
LOVE IS THE OVERRIDING MOTIVATION OF ALL WE DO.**

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I could speak all the languages of earth & of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, & if I understood all of God's secret plans & possessed all knowledge, & if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor & even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. 4 Love is patient & kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It's not irritable & it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It doesn't rejoice

about injustice but rejoices whenever truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful & endures through every circumstance.

*People will work for a **what**, but they'll give their lives for a **why**.*

It's our heart, our calling, our assignment, our gift, our ability, & our imagination that God has given us to serve Him & others.

Four reasons the Bible gives to serve God & people:

1. Serving is one of our life purposes.

Mark 8:34 ...If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, & follow Me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake & for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

*Until we learn how to serve, we're not really living-we're just existing.
We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.*

2. Serving makes us more like Jesus.

Matthew 20:25 ...You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, & officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader (*wants to be great*) among you must be your servant, ²⁷ & whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others & to give His life as a ransom for many.

If we don't learn how to serve others, we'll never grow to spiritual maturity.

In fact, we'll be a spiritual baby our entire life.

True greatness comes from servanthood, not from living for ourselves.

The greatest disciples are those who serve the most.

3. Serving is the highest use of our time.

1 Corinthians 15:58 ...be strong & immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

If we want to make an impact & leave a legacy, the highest use of our time is to serve God by serving others. Our service to the Lord is never wasted.

4. Serving will be rewarded in heaven.

Mark 10:29 ...I assure you that everyone who has given up house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or property, for my sake & for the Good News, ³⁰ will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, & property-along w/ persecution. And in the world to come, that person will have eternal life. ³¹ But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, & those who seem least important now, will be the greatest then.

Ultimately, our real boss is Jesus. He will reward us one day for everything we've done for Him. That's a guarantee!