

# DEVOTED TO JESUS

## To Grow as a Disciple

1-16-22

- The book of Acts tells us the story of the first century church. It didn't begin as an institution. It began as a movement.

**ekklesia** (Church) actually means: an assembly or gathering.

1. A simple message. 2. An expanding mission. 3. A serious devotion.

- Devoted means: To be earnest towards, to persevere, be constantly diligent, or to attend tirelessly all the exercises.

*Acts 2:42* - They **devoted themselves** to the **apostles' teaching**...

### Two questions:

1. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church?

*Matthew 28:18-20* - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> **Therefore go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- To make \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a \_\_\_\_\_?

- **DISCIPLE** means: to be the disciple of one; to follow his precepts and instruction.

### Three attributes of a disciple:

*Matthew 4:19-20* - "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

1. "Follow me" involves the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 4:19* - "Come, **follow me**," Jesus said...

**Follow** means: the same way with.

*John 12:26* - "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

- Knowledge without obedience leads to pride.

*1 Corinthians 8:1-2* - Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

2. "and I will make you" involves the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 4:19* - "...and **I will make you**..."

*Romans 8:29* - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the likeness of his Son**...

- He transforms how we see the world, what we value, and what we consider to be important.

*Romans 12:2* - Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

*2 Corinthians 3:17-18* - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

3. "fishers of men" involves the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 4:19* - "...fishers of men."

*2 Corinthians 5:15-20* - And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. <sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself **through Christ** and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself **in Christ**, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to **us** the **message of reconciliation**. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making **his appeal** through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

- When our heart is transformed, it moves the disciple into action.

*Ephesians 2:10* - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**A growing disciple of Christ is a person who is following Christ (head), is being transformed (heart), which leads to a commitment to the mission of Christ (hands).**

*Colossians 1:28-29* - We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. <sup>29</sup> To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

**Make sure to use your devotional and work through the questions each day.**