MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:19&20 “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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Review

Last week we talked about I Peter 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.” We discussed two things, “are people asking me about the hope I have,” and “am I ready to explain the plan of salvation?” And we very briefly mentioned follow-up.

MAKE DISCIPLES

What Is a Disciple?

Matthew 28:20 “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Disciples are believers who are not just learning the truth, they are learning to **OBEY** the truth.

John 8:31(ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.” Disciples are believers who abide (remain, continue) in the Word of God. Spending time in the Word is a daily discipline that

Is an essential part of being a disciple.

Luke 14:25&26 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple.”

Matthew 10:37&38 “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Luke 14:27 “And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Luke 14:28-30 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’”

Luke 14:31&32 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.”

Luke 14:33-35 “In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Matthew 5:13   
You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

Luke 6:40 (ESV) “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

I Corinthians 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

What Proves a Person Is a Disciple

John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:8(ESV) “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

The Disciplines of a Disciple

They are in the Word on a disciplined basis and obey what they learn.

They put Jesus first and deny themselves to serve others.

They have a disciplined prayer life. (Luke 11:9 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.)

They function as part of the body. Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of god’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Acts 14:27&28 On arriving there, the gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

They ask questions about what they are taught. Matthew 13:10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

Matthew 13:38 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

Lifeway Research (Quoted in Ministry Watch 9/26/23) There are three primary things that determine if a church will grow. 1. Are people being saved? 2. Are those being saved being assimilated?

3. “What percentage of your current weekend worship attendees are involved in some small group, Sunday school class or similar group?...If you want a growing church and a healthy church, strive to increase the percentage of churchgoers in a small group.”

They are involved in ministry. Mark 6:39&40 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

Mark 6:41-43 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was to go.

The Rewards of Being a Disciple

Matthew 16:25-27 “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Things to Think About

A disciple is one who is learning to obey everything Jesus commanded us.

Am I a disciple?

Is following Jesus my first priority?

Am I becoming more like Jesus?

Do I deny myself to serve others?

Do I have the disciplines of a disciple?

Am I in the Word of God daily?

Do I have a good prayer life?

Am I a functioning part of a local body of Christians?

Am I involved in a small group where I can be taught and ask questions?

Am I serving in some way as I learn?

Does my life prove I am a disciple?

Is my life characterized by loving people, putting their needs above my own?

Am I bearing fruit? Am I involved in activities that lead people to Christ.