

Matthew 28:19-20

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”*

As you go...make disciples...

Remember that sermon... the one I ditched two weeks ago... well, this one isn't that one either!

Instead (and probably over the next 3 weeks) talk about 3 things that set disciples of Jesus apart from other disciples. Remember, everybody is a disciple... they follow someone (even if it's just themselves). And we want to understand the difference between a believer and a true disciple of Christ. Last week we said... not every believer is a disciple but every disciple is a believer. That there was a difference between just belief in Jesus and being embedded in discipleship with Jesus.

So this series, Make and Model: The Call to Discipleship hopefully has and is going to help us identify those differences.

A disciple is one who:

1. Always with the Master (Acts 4:13)
2. Becoming like the Master (Philippians 2:2)
3. Serves like the Master (John 14:12)

This week... Always with the Master Acts 4:13

Let's look closer at verse 13

*“Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they **recognized that they had been with Jesus.**”*

They were uneducated, common men... If you can't tell, this was not a compliment... The Jewish leaders were astonished by the boldness of Peter and John... They weren't impressed with their background, their credentials (they didn't have any) but their boldness was amazing...they had been with Jesus... and it showed.

The word for boldness means: All out, not holding back, frankness and assurance

And they recognized that they had been with Jesus

This is an extreme statement to me... the word **recognized** means: to know thoroughly, to perceive who a person is. The word **with** means: union with, companion, resemblance.

The leaders were certain that these men had been with Jesus... there was no doubt whose disciple they were.

How do we know we have been with Jesus? How do others know... recognize we have been with the Messiah?

True Disciples are with Jesus... a lot... these are followers who don't just learn from their master, they put into practice what they have learned.

Liz's story....

I feel like this adds onto yesterday's sermon in a way.

*Today I was in Target, and I was in line checking out. I don't make a lot of money. I was NOT expecting to give anyone money today. But something in my soul kept telling me "Give the cashier \$20." Over and over again, I was being told to give the cashier \$20. So I did. I put it in her hand and said "you are loved." She started crying and told me that she was a single mom and was \$17 short on her toddler's inhaler and she had been worrying all day how she was going to get that \$17. I asked her if I can pray for her and she said "**you know, I always doubted God, but I see Him today.**" I gave her my number and told her if she wants to talk, I will be there.*

My conditions aren't perfect. But God was telling me what to do, and I did it, and I may have led another person to God.

Isn't that awesome? This single Mom saw Jesus in Liz, in her act of obedience and kindness! She "knew" that Liz had been with Jesus!

Someone asked me the other day... How do I cultivate a closer relationship with God... is it just praying, reading His Word and worshipping?

I think the first thing to remember is that Jesus is committed to a close, intimate relationship with us. He even prayed for it in the Gospel of John. (20-23)

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, (21) that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (22) The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, (23) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Being ONE like the closeness shared between Jesus and the Father is a BIG DEAL! How much does He love us... to want to be ONE with us!

A close relationship is based on intimacy and trust is at the heart of intimacy. The more we trust someone, the closer we let them get to us.

When prayer, studying His Word and worship are the base of the relationship... then the relationship can go deeper...because it's based on love... His love for us!

A disciple of Jesus learns to trust the answers of God.

Psalm 138:3

"On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased."

The Hebrew word that is usually translated as "soul" is nephesh. The word literally means "throat" and more figuratively means one's "true self" or "inmost being."

In other words.... **You made me strong to the core! Prayer does this!**

When we pray, when we communicate with God... when we listen to the Holy Spirit and learn to trust the outcome of our prayers to God.... This builds a relationship by changing our heart. The circumstances leading us to pray may not change but our character does.

A disciple of Jesus learns to trust the Word of God.

Studying Scripture focuses on the Father's truth, reminding us who He is and who we are in Him.

Micah 6:8

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

The Word of God is alive and powerful to change our hearts to look more like His. His Word tells us what is GOOD and what we need to act on. I love the fact that God is telling His disciples how to walk like one! He's not a distant Father, He's up close and personal and directing us through His Word.

A disciple of Jesus learns to trust the God they worship

Worship is more than singing...worship inspires singing, shouts of joy and other emotional expressions....but worship is a deeper connection. **Worship is a life that is centered on God's heart**, what He thinks is good. It's a hunger and thirst for righteousness and being with Him.

Matthew 22:37

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

Love is worship...we worship because we love! We are to worship God with all our strength...strength fuel by love.