

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... as you go throughout your day... your routine... go live the life of a disciple.

This morning... making disciples may be the furthest thing from your mind... maybe you're thinking...

How do I make disciples when I'm trying to make a living? When I'm trying to make ends meet? When I'm trying to make it through my day... or trying to make sense of the stuff I'm working through... Make disciples... I can't even make my bed every day! What does God want from me? Is He serious?

Yes... He's very serious about making disciples... but I believe if we understand how God wants us to “make” disciples we would all exhale and see the command in a whole new way.

Let's pray....

How do I make disciples that look like Jesus and not me?

After telling His disciples to “go make more disciples,” Jesus tells them (and us) two steps in this process of making more disciples... **baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, and teach them the things they had been taught.**

Looking at the Greek in this passage, we find “**to baptize,**” means to **dip repeatedly** or to get **fully wet.**

Baptizō was a word used (in the ancient world) in the dye trade. Cloth would be dipped repeatedly into a vat of dye. The material was in essence... “baptized” in dye. When the cloth was removed from the vat, it had a new appearance... a new identity! Red cloth would come out of a vat of red dye. Blue cloth would come out of a vat of blue dye. The cloth was identified by its new color.

The phrase **in the name of** ... this phrase means everything that a person was about... their character, interests, authority, conduct, desires.

So to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit means to become identified with the triune God... with His character, His heart, His will... everything His name represents... we become soaked with His image.

I think making disciples is partly living our lives in such a way that we saturate people every day in Jesus. That our conduct, our words, our opinions, our actions... the way we live out our faith gets them totally wet with the presence of God.

We repeatedly immerse them with Christ... Helping them connect with a God who loves them... who died for their sins... and made a way for a new identity in Jesus.

It is why I pray... Drip Jesus wherever we go...

Then, after we are told to baptize, we are commanded to “teach others to obey everything He commanded us.”

The way Rabbis taught was different from what we normally experience today... They would have students follow them around, travel with them... live with them... watching and listening to everything they did until they learned to do the same things on their own.

Discipleship is personal, relational, so is disciple making.

When Jesus said to baptize and to teach them... he’s talking about being God’s instruments in bringing people from the place of unbelief to surrendering their lives to Him.

Helping people understand that discipleship is more than simply accepting Jesus. It’s a life changing commitment, a personal surrender of our will and a life spent discovering what it means to be devoted to Jesus.

This is making disciple making... helping people become disciples

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (18) All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled** us to himself and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**; (19) that is, in Christ God was **reconciling** the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the **message of reconciliation**. (20) Therefore, we are **ambassadors (act as a representative)** for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We **implore (to call near, that is, invite,)** you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”*

As we go... make disciples... we teach we know but we reproduce what we are!

As ambassadors... We have a ministry with a message... that message is reconciliation... the Greek word means to exchange coins to make up the difference for someone who doesn’t have enough so they can be in a favorable position... WOW! God makes up the discrepancy... the lack, the imbalance... God reconciles the difference so we can experience the favor of salvation!

What Good news! What a great invitation! Don’t you want to be an Ambassador?

Acts 1:8 repeats this discipleship theme...with an added twist

*“But you will receive **power (ability, abundance, meaning, might...miracle power)** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my **witnesses (mar'-toos = martyr, a record)**, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

My witnesses... Jesus is asking for some big time commitment here... be my martyr, be a permanent record of who I am... wherever I send you... and I'll give you the power to do it.

In the 7th chapter of Acts, we read about Stephen's martyrdom. In chapter 8 we read about their reaction to his death. They could have protested, revolted against Rome. They could have run and hid, fading into the shadows of a busy life. Instead they did something different.

Acts 8:4

“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”

After they mourned their brother, then (because of the persecution) they went out preaching the gospel. That's crazy! Stephen is martyred, and what action do they take? Going and doing more of what he did... that got him killed!

Still willing to be a minister of reconciliation? What do we have to die to in order to implore... invite, call people near, close enough to get them wet?

Go... is at the beginning of the word Gospel

Evangelism (proclaiming the good news) is the doorway to discipleship... It is the beginning of the discipleship process... it's the invitation... the outreach... the sacrifice of comfort in order to give someone incredibly good news. It's not about making converts... it's about sharing the Good News.

1 John 5:3

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”

What if discipleship, making disciples, evangelism, and outreach were really about love?

Not a program... not a class on evangelism, not a book study...but learning to love like Jesus. Because... People notice when someone loves someone else. Love sticks out... loving God by obeying Him... it is not burdensome (heavy in weight) the Bible says! We show our love for God by obeying his commandments, and they are not too hard to follow.

Jesus said it this way in Matthew 11:29-30

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

The "burden" of Christ was the new commandment (John 13:34) that men should love one another... isn't this what discipleship, evangelism, outreach all about?

If it's burdensome... if it seems too heavy to sacrifice your time, treasure, talent, comfort, convenience and possibly even your image... **I have one idea to jump start your heart.**

Fall in love again... surrender your heart to the greatest heart there is

Get filled with wonder again. Be astounded by Jesus' sacrifice again. Remember when you first discovered His great love for you!

Let the goodness and mercy of God fill you with awe again. I promise it will change how you live life as a disciple... how you see disciple making.

A return to the passion of loving God will all our heart, mind body, will, strength... will change how we as a church do outreach, missions, discipleship... because it will change our hearts.

John 8:31

“So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples.”

Next week... a new way of making disciples... we'll talk about more practical ways.

Your homework... should you choose to accept it... is to pray for a heart that is willing to GO... a “here I am Lord, send me” prayer... then let God fill in the blanks. Come ready to share what God is saying.