



Week 3: The Command to Make Disciples?

MV: *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.""* (Matt 28:18-20)

Imagine...Jesus crucified and dead. Three days of confusion, doubt, disillusionment. Then resurrection! Joy! Then He tells them to finish what He started.

ASK: Do you truly believe Matt. 28:18-20 is for you? If yes, are you doing it? If no, why not?

Discipling is not a program. It's the mission of our lives. It defines us. A disciple is a disciple maker.

Go...baptize...teach. It doesn't require a degree, ordination, etc.

Sometimes the simplest things are the hardest to put into practice.

BAPTISM- It's identifying with Christ and His people. It's declaring your allegiance. In the first century, it marked you for martyrdom.

Baptism is a declaration that a person's life, identity and priorities were centered on Jesus and His mission.

TEACH-teaching people to obey Jesus' words is an enormous task. We are never really done. It's like raising a child. One day they're on their own but the relationship doesn't end. The friendship continues.

It's costly for sure.

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also." (John 15:18-20)

But you're not alone. The church is considered a body.

"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Eph 4:11-16)

The pastor is the equipper and every member of the church is a minister (discipler)

YOUR job is the work of ministry. YOU are to make disciples.

Jesus' commands don't come with exception clauses.

"As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."" (Luke 9:57-62)

Jesus commands you and I to look at the people around us and start making disciples (remember Tell Someone)

Following Jesus means that you will be teaching other people to follow Jesus.

You will be teaching the people God has placed in your life. You will build relationships with them. No one is around you by accident.

Disciple making is not done in isolation but in relationship to the body of Christ, His church.