

Are you a disciple?

Lesson for Sunday, January 3, 2020

Introduction:

- For many, the new year is an opportunity to start some new things and that can always be exciting. But there are some things in life that shouldn't change. Some things are meant to be carried with us throughout our entire lives.
- For the Christian, our mission must never change, and our mission is not up for debate.
- The Bible is clear: Our mission is the Great Commission. The Great Commission can be summarized: *We are to make disciples who make disciples.*
 - The Great Commission begins with people who are lost. They hear and respond to the Gospel and are saved. Then they are baptized into the local church where they learn to know and do what Jesus taught.
 - Then the process begins again!
- Today's question is simple: Are you a disciple? Are you the person that God designed and has called you to be? Let's look at our mission more closely.

Bible Study: *To fully understand our mission to make disciples, it is helpful to look at all five of the Great Commission statements.*

1. The Method – Matthew 28:16-20
 - a. The method is clear: go, baptize (or church them), and teach to obey.
 - b. Walk your class through the process:
 - i. As you go, become a friend of sinners and share the Good News.
 - ii. When your friends repent and believe, they are to be baptized into the local church as an expression of their identifying with the work and cause of Christ.
 - iii. Finally, teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded, equipping them in every area of life to walk as Jesus walked.
 - c. Win the lost, establish the believers, and equip the few workers to reproduce the process. We are to make disciples who make disciples.
2. The Model – John 20:21
 - a. Notice how Jesus presents Himself as the model for us to follow as we carry out the mission.
 - b. In order to live our Matthew 28, we need to go back and master the Master's life.
 - c. In His earthly life, Jesus modeled the disciple-making process.
 - d. Discipleship doesn't need our creativity; it simply needs our obedience and willingness to follow the Model.
3. The Magnitude – Mark 16:15
 - a. Mark gives us a worldwide vision for our mission.
 - b. We are to begin where we live – our families, our neighbors, our community – but it doesn't end there!
 - c. The magnitude of our mission extends to the entire world.
 - d. ILL: Shaun & Cristin Evans are just a couple of weeks away from boarding the plane and heading to Sierra Leone. You may have wondered what they will be doing once they arrive? Simple! They will begin the disciple-making process in that part of the world.
 - e. Some are called for foreign missions and some are called to be pastors and teachers, but every Christian is called to make disciples in whatever location they find themselves.
4. The Message – Luke 24:47

- a. Luke presents our message with stunning clarity.
 - b. We are to preach the complete Gospel.
 - c. Any message that is devoid of repentance and forgiveness of sins is a faulty Gospel.
 - d. ILL: Team 13:3 exists for this purpose – to equip you so that you can faithfully present the wonderful message of the Gospel. (TIP: Our first Team 13:3 meeting of 2021 is January 11 – give it a plug!)
5. The Means – Acts 1:8
- a. How do we do this? How do we accomplish such a tremendous mission with a scope of such magnitude?
 - b. Just like Jesus, we are fully dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit to achieve this process.

Application:

- The mission is clear – to make disciples who make disciples. Each account that we have looked at contributes a different element of the mission. Together they describe one clear goal: to make disciples the way Jesus did.
- The process of discipleship can be seen in the life of Jesus, and can be divided into four segments. Think of it as four chairs, and everyone is in one chair or the other. (TEACHER TIP: Use four chairs as a visual as you teach the following.)

Jesus masterfully challenged His disciples through a growth process:

- CHAIR 1: “Come and see” (John 1:39). This is a challenge given for seekers to hear and consider the message of the Gospel. The people sitting in this chair are lost.
- CHAIR 2: “Follow Me” (John 1:43). Jesus invited His disciples to walk in His steps and learn from Him. This was an information gathering trip. People in this chair are saved, but babies in their faith. They are learning the Christian faith.
- CHAIR 3: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). This was Jesus’s call to go deeper in learning how to reproduce their lives in others. These people are saved and being disciplined. They have a desire to grow in their faith. These people are willing to serve the needs of others, often in the context of the local church.
- CHAIR 4: “Go and bear fruit” (John 15:16). Jesus sent out His disciples to repeat the process in the lives of others. Jesus made disciples that went out to make disciples.

The obvious question: Which chair are you in?

- Are you willing to move to the next chair in 2021?
- If they are willing, encourage them to seek you out. Explain that we have plans this year to disciple anyone who wants become a serious Christian.

Conclusion: There is nothing you will do this year that is any more important than what we have discussed in today’s lesson. Make 2021 your best year yet. Commit yourself to being a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.