

## **Discipleship: Jesus' intent**

Upon Jesus being risen from the grave after being crucified and buried, and had shown Himself to many, He was ready to ascend to Heaven. However, before He left this earth, He gave some profound instructions to His disciples. The assignment He gave is the same assignment He gives to both you and I today. Let's look at this scripture that is our VBS theme scripture for the week.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

**Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**

**“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.””**

The first thing that we have to understand is everything Jesus said and did was very intentional. He had a purpose behind when, why, and how He did things on the earth. Jesus purposely waited to the very end of his ministry to instruct them to go make disciples. Why is that?

So often, when we get saved, we believe that we can go right into our platform ministry! “As soon as you join the church, you wanna preach!!” “As soon as you get the job, you wanna be the boss!” “As soon as you get a boyfriend, you pressuring him to put a ring on it!” That's not it works baby!!

This is why we see so many pop-up preachers! They pop up, get a huge following, but just like any trend, they quickly burn out.

**Psalm 92:7 KJV**

**“When the wicked spring as the grass, And when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; It is that they shall be destroyed for ever:”**

Jesus did not have them to go and make disciples until the end because they were not ready!! They had to become a master student of the Word first!! They had to be able to reflect Jesus in all that they did. They had to become a DISCIPLE! And that is what we need to do!! Tonight, and this week we will dive into what it means to be disciple.

Question: What is a Disciple?

The term “disciple” comes from the Greek word “athetes,” which means, “to learn.” The Hebrew word for a disciple is “talmidim.” That word, too, is connected with learning. So, in its most basic sense, a disciple is someone who learns. Tonight, God wants to emphasis 3 things what we must do continually in order for us to be called disciples or “followers of Jesus Christ.”

**2 Timothy 2:15 King James Version**

**<sup>15</sup>Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

## **DISCIPLE: A STUDENT OF THE WORD!**

We live in a city that sets a high priority on education. With higher education institutions such as Florida A&M University, Florida State University, Tallahassee State College, and Lively Technical College, we have an expectation that education plays a major role in our success. As a matter of fact, 95 percent of the young adults who come to Tallahassee matriculated here for educational purposes. This is not by accident! God is in every bit of it. It is God's will that you learn. It is God's will that you get a deeper understanding. He has given each of us the ability to study, gain knowledge, and apply that knowledge to get ahead in life.

Therefore, the God that gave each of us the power to learn is now expecting us to put forth that same energy in learning His word! Look at what it says in 2 Timothy...

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 New International Version**

**<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ means to be someone who studies and learns the Word of God. This is more than just sitting and listening to a message each week. It is no way you would pass Algebra if you just sat in a lecture once per week! NO!! You have to go home and study. You have to practice the word daily so that you can use the concepts you learn in the Word to apply to your everyday situations!

Question: How often do you study the Word of God? What would be the grade God gave you for taking His course?

- Name the first 5 books of the bible in order?
- Name the last 5 books of the bible in order??

Let's look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing:

## **DISCIPLE: A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST!**

### **Matthew 4:19 NIV**

**““Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.””**

To follow someone doesn't simply mean to go behind them and trail them. The word "follow" means to trust. If I'm following you, it means that I do not know where we are going. I do not know how we are getting there. And I do not know when we are getting there. That is why so many of us say we follow, but don't. We say we are following Jesus; we don't trust him!!

As soon as we don't like the way we are going, we start doing things our own way. That's not following. When Jesus told Peter to follow, He did not give him the whole story. He didn't say that Peter that he would walk on water. He didn't tell Him that he would cut the ear off a soldier. And He didn't tell him that he would be crucified upside down. Why do you think that is?

Let's do an example:

**John 10:27 NKJV**

**“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”**

One of the main reasons we cannot follow Jesus is that we don't know His voice!

- We confuse His voice with the voice of our own flesh!
- We confuse His voice with the voice of other people's opinions!
- We confuse His voice with the voice of Satan!!

Whose voice are you following?

Finally, let's look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> thing:

**DISCIPLE: SOMEONE WHO SERVES!**

**John 21:15-17 New International Version**

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

Please understand! A very essential part of being a disciple is serving. If you examine the ministry of Jesus Christ, you will find that He taught the people, He performed miracles and healed, and He consistently served the people. How can people see and feel the love of God if they do not see people like me and you who are willing to serve!!

Question: What does your serving time look versus your seat time?

**Matthew 20:28 New International Version**

<sup>28</sup> **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, ...”**

To be a disciple means to reflect what Jesus did. Therefore, we must commit to serving in this ministry. It is imperative that we check to see if our serving has dowed. We cannot allow the excuses of the world..

- I got married so I cannot serve like I used to...
- I had a baby so I cannot serve like I used to...
- I have a new job so I cannot serve like I used to... (Since when did we allow God's blessing to serve as reason for our lack of commitment to serving!!)