

# DISCIPLE

## Introduction

I heard a song several months ago and it troubled me. It was called "AA" by Walker Hayes.

And I'm just tryna keep my daughters off the pole  
And my sons out of jail  
Tryna get to church so I don't go to hell  
I'm just tryna keep my wife from figuring out  
That I married up and she married way, way down  
In Alabama where they love Nick Saban  
Tryna write a song the local country station'll play  
Hey, I'm just tryna stay out of AA

Is this the goal?

"Tryna get to church so I don't go to hell"

The goal of the Christian life is far more than simply missing hell.

God has planned an "abundant life" for you that you can only experience as you abide in relationship with Him!

How do you get there? With all the distraction in this life and with all of the heartache we encounter, how do we get to the point where we are walking in intimate fellowship with our Heavenly Father and doing the things He has created and called us to do? **DISCIPLESHIP!**

What's our one job as a church? Make disciples! Where do we get this command from? The Bible!

Stand with me if you will and let's **Matthew 28:18-20.**

## Disciple

Kayla and I love watching the Olympics. The 2024 Summer Games are coming soon! One of my favorite events to watch are the track events, specifically the relay races. One of the most important aspects of a relay race is the passing of the baton. It can literally make or break a team.

In Matthew 28, we see Jesus passing the baton of ministry to the disciples. He has been to the cross to complete salvation's work, and now he passes the baton of taking the good news of the gospel to the nations.

What was the effect?

Dann Spader wrote this:

"Jesus poured His life into a few disciples and taught them to make other disciples. Seventeen times we find Jesus with the masses, but forty-six times we see Him with His disciples. These few disciples within two years after the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, went out and "filled Jerusalem" with Jesus' teaching (Acts 5:28). Within Four and a half years) they had planted multiplying churches and equipped multiplying disciples (Acts 9:31). Within eighteen years it was said of them that they "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6 ESV). And in twenty-eight years it was said that "the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world" (Col. 1:6)."

Jesus made disciples! It He did it effectively.

Here's what I want you to know: that same commission that Jesus gave His disciples is our commission as the New Testament Church of 2023.

Peter Drucker said, "The worst kind of failure in business is success in the things that don't matter."

Last week, I launched a 3-Prong approach to disciple making that we will use as a ministry.

### **REACH - DISCIPLE – SEND**

Let me say this: I don't want to measure our effectiveness as a church by our seating capacity but by our sending capacity. Our effectiveness will not be measured by how many people come in here to have a seat but by how many go out there to share Jesus with the lost and in turn make disciples.

Last week, we talked about how we are called to reach out to those who are far from God. It is God's heart to reach the lost. We must pierce the darkness.

J.D. Greear wrote this in his book *Gaining By Losing*, "Reshuffling members is not advancing on the gates of hell; it is merely reassigning the soldiers into new platoons. At some point, somebody has to engage the enemy, or we forfeit the war."

We are called to REACH!

This morning let's look at Part 2 of our strategy and what it means to make a disciple.

Discipleship is not about what you do, but about who you are. You are a child of God and discipleship is a process of aligning your life and the things you do with your identity as a Christian.

In **Matthew 4**, when Satan tempted the Lord, he attacked Jesus' identity as the Son of God. Two times Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God..."

As a believer, you must establish who you are in Christ.

**Matthew 28:18.**

**Discipleship Question: Who calls the shots in your life?**

When you have a decision to make, where do you go first?

The things that you do reinforce your identity as a man of God or a woman of God. We must begin to see ourselves as the people of God. The reasons that we stay away from certain things, the reason we do not partake in certain activities is because those things have no place in the life of a disciple. It's not simply that we don't do those things but that's not who we are. The flip side of that is also true, we do certain things because we are the people of God.

James Clear writes about this in his book called *Atomic Habits*. He says, "It's one thing to say, 'I'm the type of person who

wants this.' It's something very different to say, 'I'm the type of person who is this.'"

If you go out and jog one day, you're not going to go around and tell people that you are a jogger. If you go to the gym one time, you're not likely to tell people that you are an athlete. But the more evidence you bring to the table that reinforces that identity, the more that identity becomes true of you.

When you engage in a discipleship group, you surround yourself with people who are on the same journey you are, and they help to reinforce those biblical principles laid out in God's Word for how we are to act and live.

That group is the one that when you are going through a tough time, they remind you to look to Jesus!

J. Oswald Sanders wrote this in his book *Spiritual Discipleship*, "Some experiences of life will greatly accelerate the maturing process. Although the three Hebrew youths (Daniel 3:16-29) must have been **mystified** by God's failure to intervene on their behalf, they **matured** rapidly in the fiery furnace experience. And so can we in our trials.

Our attitude will determine whether God's disciplines are bane or blessing, whether they sweeten or sour."

I don't know about you, but I need people in my life who will push me to be better than what I could be on my own.

Think about this: James Clear writes about this in *Atomic Habits*; every organization has the same goals, but it is their systems that make the difference.

NFL- Super Bowl

**Question: Are you surrounding yourself with people who know what is going on in your life and constantly point you to Jesus?**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT** says, "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."

Robert Murray McCheyne used to say, "A glance at Christ will save, but it is the gazing at Christ that sanctifies."

Matthew 28:19-20.

1 Command: Make disciples

3 Participles: Go- Baptize- Teach

**Go-** it is a present active participle. A better translation would be "As you are going" make disciples.

**Here's the point: you cannot stay where you are and obey the word "Go".**

This is why as you leave our parking lot each week, you will read the words "Go Make Disciples".

**Baptize-** Baptism is identifying with Jesus!

Jesus' baptism in Judea with John the Baptist was a symbol of His baptism in Jerusalem when He took the wrath of God for all mankind.

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality. It is **YOUR** identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

It is a picture of Christ's transformation in your life. You go into the water dry, and come out wet. Everything changed!

**Teach-** We teach others to follow Jesus and what He has taught us.

How do we do this?

We teach others to spend time with Jesus! How do you spend time with Jesus? By reading His Word, the Bible.

**2 Timothy 3:16** says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

The Word of God must be our foundation! And **2 Timothy 3:16** is a good framework.

### **1. Teaching**

We desire to teach people how to live like Jesus! We must show people the way to go and Jesus is the way (**John 14:6**).

Does your life reflect Jesus in your character, conduct, and communication?

**Colossians 3:16** says, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all

wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

### **2. Rebuking**

When we see a brother or sister in Christ not living as they should, we rebuke them.

It sounds harsh but it's actually, if done in the right spirit, a very loving thing to do.

**Galatians 6:1** says, "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

### **3. Correcting**

We don't simply tell people that they have done something wrong, but rather we show them which way to go!

The idea of correction is to "restore something to its original and proper condition." John MacArthur

### **4. Training**

This is a similar word to correction, but it implies more of your presence. If you are training someone, you are there with them each step of the way.

You cannot be a trainer and simply yell from the stands.

Why do we do all this?

**2 Timothy 3:17**, "SO THAT the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

It goes back to the beginning, what is your purpose?