



'Make disciples'

1. What is a disciple?

2. How do we make a disciple?

The Great Commission – 'Make disciples

Give us boldness

Read

- **Matthew 28:19**

1. Intro

We have looked at authority as the catalyst for our mission we can go in confidence. Looked last week at call to go and the intentional response to go. We have looked at Jesus' power and His sending of us. But power and sending for what? What is the heart of the great commission? – the summary for what is He asking us to do- it is to make disciples – the rest is all built around this central command to go and make disciples. This is the mission of the church this should be our focus. Is it our focus? Often in church life it isn't, we can get caught up in lots of good and great things but we can stop remembering the reason. Mike Green 'when we set out to make disciples you end up with church' it isn't the other way round.

Last week Craig spoke about how in Thanet they are making disciples and they have planted out in Broadstairs – because one lady is on fire about telling people about Jesus. They have so many new people that needed a new church. This was the model of the New Testament – churches came out of new converts. We see this in Thanet – my heart is that we see Jesus doing that here.

We cannot keep it to ourselves. We need to understand that the goal of the great commission is not simply about evangelism – we don't just want a decision to be the beginning and end – we need to disciple the people what it means to follow God and then make disciples. We saw the four fields – the empty field then sowing then third field is people responding – the fourth field is that field coming into fruition.

We all need to do sowing – but it doesn't all stop there we need to tend the growth. We do not want to do hit and run evangelism. We need to run and walk and journey together.

2. What is a disciple?

Called by Jesus

We see this pattern throughout the scriptures – Jesus is the one who calls – who invites us to be disciples. Think of Peter and the fishermen – Matthew and the tax collector – Jesus breaks in comes along and says follow me. The rich young ruler – asks – but Jesus calls him to follow him and shows the cost.

We see this sense of being called and invited by God throughout the scripture. Romans Chapter 1 – Paul a servant called to be an Apostle. To all those who are loved by God and called by God. Thessalonians 1.4 he has chosen you. John 15.16 I chose you. Appointed you that you should go and bear fruit. We are called by Jesus.



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1. What is a disciple?

2. How do we make a disciple?

Why is this important? It matters because once you get that you have been chosen and called by Jesus it affects your attitude. The Olympics is on the horizon imagine that you are Olympics crazy – you are thinking of travelling to the Olympics – you have your tickets – you are so excited to go and then something happens which means that there is a danger and cost if you go to the Olympics like the pandemic. You might then think I'm not sure I want to go. Then imagine you are called up by Olympic team and you are told to carry the flag into the stadium – represent your country – they are singling you out to represent the country in the 100 meters. Your decision is much more motivated – the risk is lessened – this is an honor and a privilege you think I cannot turn this down.

Willingness to sacrifice is so more acceptable when we see the privilege of being chosen. As Christians we have been chosen by Jesus – we were wretches, living life in the ashes, yet he has called us, not because of anything in us – all through His mercy and grace and love alone. He has chosen and called us. David Watson said 'it is only when we see that we are chosen that we see our responsibility to live ...' like Jesus wanted.

There is choice everywhere – we build our life around what suits us – we can fall into the trap that if we think this is too much – we can say I think I will move on. But when you realise that you have been chosen you will just want to follow.

Called to Jesus

In Jesus day having disciples wasn't a new thing – but what was different for Jesus was they were called to follow Him. Jesus' call was just a call to follow teaching it was a call to himself – to know Him – to live with Him and to be in relationship with Him. When he was crucified, they were so distraught because they couldn't have him – His teaching wasn't sufficient. We follow Him we are disciples of Him. We set up discipleship group but we all follow Jesus Christ. To be called to Jesus is to be called into relationship and to follow Him.

To follow Him means to imitate Him, obey Him and be like Him. We have taken all of the values we see in His teaching so we can say that our values that we see in Jesus. A disciple is someone who emulates the character of Jesus.

Key question is are you a disciple? Are you a disciple or are you someone who just made a decision – are you walking closely in your life with Jesus. Implore you if you haven't made the decision to follow Jesus then I ask you to surrender now and follow Him.



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3. How do we make disciples?

Passing on what we have received

We can all do this. Some of us may say I do not feel equipped to do this. Making disciples is primarily is drawing people into what you yourself has received or living. 2 Timothy 2.1 We see we have Paul, who entrusts this on to Timothy who is asked to pass this on to faithful men. I want you to take away this one thing – what I have received I am passing on to you. All of us can do this – all of us can be disciple makers – pass on what you have learned from Jesus. Pass this on.

You have to have something to pass on – you cannot pass on what you do not have. We need to be a people that are continually growing in our relationship with Jesus. We need to be living streams not stagnant pools. We live in a world thirsty for purpose and meaning. When people look at your life and the church does it look like a life-giving river or a stagnant pool of water. When people are desperate for a drink they need clean living water to quench their thirst.

Living rivers create fertile plains. We need to bring this living water. We have been in these discipleship groups – equipping people by passing on what we have received. We have put together the foundations pods on the web site – they are designed to be worked through for a new disciple. There are nine key topics you can work through with people.

My heart is we hear people that our meeting up and discipling outside of the church preparing them

Not just informing it is forming

You cannot disciple from a distant Paul talks about his dear beloved child in Timothy there is deep commitment – we must be willing to be deeply committed to people. To knead love into people's life – it isn't just a brain dump – we need to walk with them and knead the yeast into the dough. Working it into every aspect of people's lives.

Whole church role

You don't have to be good at everything. Some people love sowing seed, but not be so good at next stage of building relationship and walking with them. Others that have heart for hospitality to bring people into the community of God – collectively as a church have a responsibility to make disciples.