

DISCIPLE ONE

UNDERSTANDING OUR ASSIGNMENT

OPEN: The natural overflow of being a disciple of Jesus is to make disciples of Jesus.

- When Jesus invited Peter and Andrew to become His disciples, He said: **“Follow me, and I will make fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)**
- Heavens strategy – invest in those who want to know, love and live for God so they can invest in others.
- Yet, tragically...the church has mutated into a comfortable call for Christians to come, listen and leave.
 - ✓ Are we done when the Service is over? Have we filled our spiritual duty by “attending church” two Sundays out of the month?
 - ✓ Are we guilty of ignoring the commandment of Christ to go and make disciples?
- In most churches, evangelism is a dreaded topic, discipleship is a canned program and many/most in the church sit on the sidelines as spectators.
 - ✓ We have delegated disciple making to pastors and professionals, ministers and missionaries.
- This is not the way it is supposed to be. Jesus has invited all of us to be a part of His plan.
 - ✓ He has designed all of His people to know His joy as we share His love, spread His word and multiply His life among all of the peoples of the earth.
 - ✓ There are those who have yet to experience the mercy and grace of God and we are God’s messengers.

- ❖ We were made to be His disciples who make disciples until the day we see the Face of the One we follow.
- ❖ Imagine getting to Heaven and God saying: Before I laid the foundation of the earth, I thought of you and of the days you would live on earth. I planned out the people and places I would send you...your neighbors, workplace, where you would attend school and church, your family...I laid out your days so you could do the work I planned for you and I equipped you with all you would need to accomplish your purpose. I filled you with my Spirit to encourage and empower you I gave you my word so you would know me and what you were to do. I gave you people to run with and people who needed me...let's talk about how it went.
- ❖ We are thankful for those that invite people to church...it's a good start in your Christian life...but we want to help you become investors. (graduate from being an inviter to an investor).
 - Making disciples means sharing our lives with others.
 - Jesus ministered to the crowd but invested in the 12.
 - He devoted 90% of His time to discipling 12 men.
 - His model of discipleship was life on life.
 - Not everyone had equal access to Him.
 - He chose a team of 12 but even in that group He offered a different level of intimacy to Peter, James and John.
 - Beyond the 12 there were 72 (Luke 10), then the 120 (Acts 1) and then the crowds.
 - Jesus was able to balance His time and share His life with many people looking for guidance.
 - But I know what you are thinking...we aren't Jesus and that was a different culture...no argument.
- ❖ Besides discipling your family...would you join us in Disciple One?
 - ✓ Before you answer...let's look at our assignment from Jesus:

Matthew 28:18-20

- If a “man” came back from the dead and spoke with you...would you be interested in what He had to say? What if this man was God?

1) FIRST, WE SEE JESUS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO TELL US WHAT TO DO.
(vs. 18) *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- ✓ Our response should be one of obedience.
- ✓ The One who gave His life so we can be forgiven...conquered death...promises us Heaven...has an assignment for us!
- ✓ It is not a suggestion but a command...we are to submit to our commander in chief.

2) NOTICE OUR ASSIGNMENT – GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

- 3 actions required:

a) Go or Going...as you are going.

- ✓ As you go about living your life, make disciples.
 - ✓ We are not to wait for people to come to us...we are to go to them.
 - ✓ The “church” isn’t to wait for people to come to its doors, but it is to go to the world’s door.
 - ✓ It’s good to send missionaries across the sea, but that doesn’t absolve us from walking across the street, ballfield, office building...
 - ✓ Wherever we live, wherever we are, we are to make disciples...this is more than a convert.
- A disciple is one who has believed...put their faith and trust in Christ...and then they express their faith in baptism.

b) Baptizing – to be immersed in water...symbolic of spiritual cleansing.

- ✓ The blood of Christ cleanses us, baptism is an outward expression of an inward experience.
- ✓ It’s our line in the sand when we say...we are putting our past behind us...making a break from the old life...living my life for Jesus!

- They have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord...made it public through believer's baptism...now we:

c) Teaching – communicating through words and actions.

- ✓ Folks learn by listening but more by doing.
- ✓ Book knowledge is good, but practical experience is better.
- ✓ They watch you, you involve them, you watch them...(cheer them on, correct when necessary and celebrate their accomplishment.)
 - Ex. A person doesn't learn to pray by reading a book, he learns to pray by praying...witnessing, giving devotions, handling finances, taking care of family, loving their spouse.

❖ Your joy will be a front row seat watching life transformation.

Review:

- 1) Jesus has the authority to give us our marching orders.
- 2) Our assignment – going, baptizing and teaching.

3) HE PROMISES US HIS PRESENCE. (vs. 20) *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- Where there is a **go** there is a **lo...**(KJV) “Lo, I am with you always...”
 - ✓ “I AM” – ego eimi (name for God).
 - ✓ God promises His presence to those who make disciples.
 - Not only will He empower us...He will work in the other person's life as well.

❖ If you want to experience the presence of God, get busy accomplishing the assignment He has given you.

❖ Close with some practical thoughts:

- Being a follower of Christ is more than showing up at a church event...giving an occasional gift to feed the poor.

- ✓ We have too many consumers in the church who depend on the services of the religious professionals.
- ✓ We need some disciple makers.
- ✓ Jesus will build His church...our assignment is to make disciples.
 - If we make disciples the church will grow...if we focus on church growth we will rarely get disciples.
- To be clear...discipleship is not a class you take, a program you attend or a syllabus you read.
- ✓ People need access to your life (discipleship cannot be done at a distance).

a) DISCIPLE MAKING REQUIRES TIME.

- ✓ This doesn't mean you don't have boundaries but you create opportunities for the person you are discipling to hang out with you.
- ✓ It was said of Jesus' men:

Acts 4:13 (NLT) – The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

b) IT'S HELPFUL IF YOU HAVE A TOOL.

- To be intentional you need an organized component.
 - ✓ It's true...much discipling is less formal...organic.
- A weekly meeting with training is helpful...it insures forward progress is occurring.
 - ✓ Introduce Disciple One.

c) YOUR TASK IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT...IS TO DISCIPLE SOMEONE.

- Pray, ask God to show you who you might invest in.
- Look for someone “spiritually hungry.”
- Ask for a commitment and start the process.
- ❖ What is our hope? **Acts 17:6** it was said of the Lord’s disciples...**those who have turned the world upside down have come here too.**
- ❖ Do not be satisfied with being a spectator...be a disciple maker.

**Pastor Ralph Schneck
First Baptist Church of Lexington
Message Notes
August 27, 2017**