

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Discipleship 101

Living as a Disciple Maker – Part 1

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DISCIPLESHIP 101

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus walked up to a handful of men and said, “**Follow Me.**”

The word disciple refers to a **student** or **apprentice**. One who follows the teacher or master to be trained and to learn. A disciple is a follower...but only if we take the term follower **literally**. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is as simple as obeying His call to follow.

It is impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not end up like that person. “**A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher**” (Luke 6:40).

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we IMITATE HIM

we CARRY ON HIS MINISTRY

we BECOME LIKE HIM IN THE PROCESS

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Up to this point in your life, would you call yourself a follower of Jesus Christ? Why do you say that? Do you see evidence of your faith as described in Luke 6:40?

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HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

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REPENT

Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

The word repent means “to turn”. It has the idea of changing directions and heading the opposite way.

Part of our repentance is the realization that we must turn from believing that there is anything we can do to save ourselves – for everything was accomplished by Jesus Christ.

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The Lord of Grace

Scripture is all about the **grace of God**. There is absolutely nothing that you can do to save yourself or earn God's favor. Paul said, **“By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast”** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

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It All Comes Down to Love

Following Jesus comes down to two commands, which He said were the most important commandments in the Old Testament Law:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Mat 22:37-40 KJV)

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Count the Cost

Before you can set out to teach other people to be disciples of Jesus, you need to examine your heart and make sure **you are a disciple**. As we go through this study, you will be challenged to consider what it means to be a follower of Jesus. You will think through what the Bible teaches and its implications for the way you live your life today.

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Luke 14:25-33 KJV

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26 If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

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Jesus boldly said that the true disciple comes to Him without reservation, **setting Jesus first**. Other relationships are definitely of lower priority than faithfulness and obedience to Jesus. Repeatedly in the Bible we see that Jesus founded a way of **love**, not hate. Yet Jesus used the strong word hate to show how great the difference must be between our allegiance to Jesus and our allegiance to everyone and everything else.

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Here Jesus said to the great multitudes something very similar to what He said privately to all His disciples in Luke 9:23 – that being a follower of Jesus is something like **bearing a cross**. Jesus made it clear that only cross-bearers can be His disciples. Therefore, we sometimes may understate the demands of Jesus when we present the gospel. We can give them the impression that coming to Jesus is only to believe some facts instead of **to yield a life**.

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Forsake all that he has: This ancient Greek phrase had the idea, “To say goodbye to.”

Jesus told us to say goodbye to everything we have, entrusting it to Jesus.

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THE COMMAND TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Instead of Jesus telling His disciples that He would immediately transform the earth, Jesus gave His disciples one final command and ascended into heaven. **He told them to finish what He had started.** They were to take the message that Jesus declared and exemplified in and around Jerusalem and spread that message to the very ends of the earth.

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18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV)

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The Great Commission and the Church

When you read through the New Testament, it is not surprising to read that Jesus's followers were focused on making disciples – it makes sense in light of Jesus's ministry and the Great Commission. The surprise comes when we look at our churches today in light of Jesus's command to make disciples.

We see little disciple making taking place in the church today. If Jesus made the command to that church...he wants the same from the church of today.

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More Than a Program

For some of us, our church experience had been focused on programs that we immediately think about Jesus's command to make disciples in programmatic terms.

- Making disciples is far more than a program. **It is the mission of our lives.** It defines us. A disciple is a disciple maker.
- The Great Commission uses three phases to describe what disciple making entails: go, baptize people, and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded.

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Equipped to Do the Work of Ministry

While it is true that the pastors, elders, and apostles in the New Testament made disciples, we can't overlook the fact that discipleship was **everyone's job**. The members of the early church took their responsibility to make disciples very seriously. To them, the church wasn't a corporation run by a CEO. Rather, they compared the church to a body that functions properly only when every member is doing its part.

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11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV)

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Taking the First Step

Being a disciple maker means that you will begin to look at the people in your life differently. Following Jesus means that you will be teaching other people to follow Jesus.

Who has God placed in your life that you can teach to follow Jesus? Keep in mind that the Great Commission calls us to every type of person, to inside the church as well as those outside the church, those who are like us and those that are different.

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Working Together to Make Disciples

God wants you to view the other Christians in your life as partners in ministry. God does not want you to make disciples in isolation. He has placed us in the context of a church body so that you can be encouraged and challenged by the people around you.

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THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE MAKER

Why do you want to make disciples? As followers of Christ, we should be focused on making disciples. But if our motive is not right, we are doing more harm than good.

An important theme that runs throughout scripture is this: “The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

God wants us to pursue certain actions, but as we put God’s commands into action, our motivation makes all the difference.

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SUPPORTING THE SINNER BUT NOT THE SIN

Questions?

References

Material Excerpts From:

Chan, Francis and Platt, David: Multiply: disciples making disciples.
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