

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

SERMON – Are You a Disciple - Part 2

Topic: Be a Disciple and Make Disciples

Scripture: John 1:35-45

11/ 2003

Matt 28:16-20 **16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** 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, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (NIV)

We are continuing in the Series “are You A disciple. We stopped at point 1 on the last time now we continue with point two:

MAKING DISCIPLES

Point 2: Next Jesus tells them to make disciples of all nations. I understand that to mean we should have a heart to reach all mankind regardless of their race, creed or color. *John 3:16* says "whosoever." In order to make a disciple of Christ we must first **be** a disciple of Christ.

Some of you may not identify yourselves as a disciple. If I were to ask if you are you a Christian you probably would say yes. Maybe you are waiting to grow into being a disciple. Well, hold onto your seats, I have some news for you. We have let the world twist everything around. If you do not think you are a disciple than you might have to stop calling yourself a Christian. Now I am not talking about salvation I'm talking about calling yourself a Christian.

We may identify with the Christian religion but that does not make us a Christian. We may have been raised in a Christian home , but that does not make us a Christina any more than if we were borne in a garage would make us a car.

Acts 11:26 And the **disciples** were first called Christians in Antioch. NKJV

This means that believers were first called disciples then Christians. Now people are called Christians and very few are disciples.

Definition of Christian (Entry 1 of 2 in Webster)

1a: one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus [Christ](#). Many claim that but look at the second definition.

B (1): [DISCIPLE](#)

Definition of disciple

1: one who accepts and assists in spreading the [doctrines](#) of another:

I heard some time ago that the fastest growing religion in the world is Islam. There are many others that are growing faster than mainstream Christianity. Why is this? Many of these religions

have understood that they must GO and make disciples of people to follow their faith. Let me give an example.

Illustration: How many of you, in the last year, have had a member of another faith come by your home or maybe you've seen them in the neighborhood and did not open the door? If not last year at least the last two years you may have seen this.

Let's turn it around and say, how many of you have in the last two years even attempted to tell someone about your faith and salvation in Jesus Christ?

Are You A Disciple?

BAPTIZE

Point 3: We are told to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is an act of obedience. It symbolizes the old self being buried and being resurrected into the new life with Christ.

Illustration: Different faiths view baptism differently. Some of you may have been sprinkled and called it being baptized. This verse uses the word "baptizing." It is the same word used in *Matt 3:16* and *Mark 1:9*. A closer look at this word in its' original form means to immerse, submerge, fully wet.

907 baptizo (bap-tid'-zo);

From a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism:

Baptism is an act of obedience. If a disciple is one who follows the teaching of a master and our master is Jesus. He was baptized and in *Mark 3:16-17* it says that the father was pleased with him.

Matt 3:16-17 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (NIV)

I ask again, Are You A Disciple?

NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

Point 4: We are to do the same in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the Bible, order is always important. Here the Father is mentioned first then the Son, then the Holy Spirit. All three work. But none are to be worshipped more than the Father. Remember that it was the Father that sent the Son and it was the Father and the Son that sent the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- (NIV)

We must be careful that we do not focus all our worship on any member of the Trinity more than the Father. I have found that the more I learn of the Father, the more I appreciate and love Jesus and the more I am thankful for the assistance, comfort and aid of the Holy Spirit.

TEACH THEM

Point 5: The last point I want to address is the command to teach them to obey what Jesus has commanded. A disciple cannot teach what he does not know. We have to study our Bibles both the Old and New Testaments, in order to teach correctly. I believe it is a misconception to discount the Old Testament. Jesus often referred to the Old Testament scriptures.

Mark 12:10 10 Haven't you read this scripture: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; (NIV)

PROMISE

Jesus ends his farewell message with a promise. He will be with us always even to the end of the age.

Question: Is this command for us today or was it just for them?

When I study the scriptures and I come across a passage like this, I often ask myself, "who is this directed at." Is this Great Commission only for those disciples to whom Jesus spoke? I dare say not.

The term "age" in this passage is translated from the Greek word meaning "world." Well the end of the world has not arrived so I believe he is speaking to those of us who want to be his disciples.

AGE or World? 165 aion- 1) forever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity; 2) the worlds, the universe; 3) a period of time, an age

Are You A Disciple?

There are a lot of people that call themselves Christians who are not disciples. Many give the perception that they are. We all know that perceptions can be wrong.

PERCEPTION

A woman drove a mini-van filled with a dozen screaming kids through the mall parking lot, looking for a space. Obviously frazzled, she coasted through a stop sign. "Hey, lady, have you forgotten how to stop?" yelled an irate man. She rolled down her window and said, "What makes you think these are all mine?"

Many may accept the teachings of Christ, but how many of us are spreading them. Becoming a disciple is maturing as a Christian to another level of service.

To be a disciple of Christ does not require you to have matriculated through the halls of higher learning nor does that eliminate you. A disciple can be a young person or a person in their golden years, they can be a man or a woman, boy or girl, rich or poor.

It is a matter of four things:

- 1 You must have **ACCEPTED** Christ as your savior and desire to be a true disciple of Christ.
You must be **F.A.T.**
- 2 **Faithful** In service, in attendance, giving, studying
- 3 **Available** To serve, to give, to minister, to go,
- 4 **Teachable** To learn the bible, Gods commands, Gods precepts.

Jesus is not impressed with you ability but your availability and dependability.

Illustration: Let me try this analogy and see if it will help me explain why it is important to become a disciple.

If we do not become active disciples, we are like a person who makes the team but never becomes an active participant in the game.

COUNT THE COST

I hope I have caused some of you to think more deeply about your relationship with God and Christ. Maybe you are saying to yourself, "I want to be a true disciple of Christ." Remember that before you can obey the Great Commission to make disciples, you must first be disciples. If this is the case for some, let me share with you what the Master says about becoming a disciple.

Luke 14:26-28 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-- (NKJ)

Let me just mention here that Jesus is not saying we must "hate" as we understand today's meaning of hate. Hate in this passage means to love less.

If you desire to be a disciple you must first count the cost. The work of a disciple is not complete until the disciplined one becomes a discipler.

A Chinese Sells Himself

Lough Fook, a Chinese Christian, moved with compassion for the coolies in the South African mines, sold himself for a term of five years as a coolie slave, and was transported to Demerara, to carry the Gospel to his countrymen working there. He toiled in the mines with them and preached Jesus while he toiled.

Lough Fook died; but not until he had won to the Savior nearly 200 disciples who joined the Christian church. How many lives of men do you know whose life has been so literally reproduced as here?

Are you following the teachings of Christ? Are you assisting in spreading them? Do you want to be a disciple of Christ? Seek to reproduce your life in another.

Are You A Disciple?

TRAINING

We often refer to these men as disciples. Jesus took time to train these men as opposed to giving them a special supernatural zap. Training always involves teaching, but teaching does not have to involve training.

Illustration #1: Jesus was with these men basically every day and every night. They ate together, slept and traveled together. Jesus did not always tell them what to do but let them learn through observation and involvement. They saw him perform miracles, they watched him deal with the religious leader and the people. Jesus taught them verbally and through on the job training. While they were with Jesus, school was never out.

Let me give you a more current illustration.

Illustration #2 When a new person comes on the job, most companies will have someone sit down besides that person and train them on how to do the job. The success rate would be very dismal if the new hire was told to read a book or watch a video on how to do his/her new job and then start right in.

These men were not of high rank in the religious community; they were common men many of the fishing trade. They also included the hated tax collector, and a member of the Zealots. They were often slow to learn and I believe they required Jesus to use perhaps some supernatural patience. Let me give you a couple of examples as to why I say this.

PATIENCE

Jesus has just finished an extended period of teaching the multitudes and after that he gave some private lessons to the disciples. He slept and the storm arose and the disciples being fearful woke him. He calmed the storm and said to them.

Mark 4:40 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? **Do you still have no faith?"** (NIV)

Mark 8:13-21 13 **Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.**

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

15 "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." 16 They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."

17 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? **Do you still not see or understand?** Are your hearts hardened?"

18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied.

20 "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven."

21 **He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"** (NIV)

I cannot be too hard on them because I am guilty of the same thing. How often has God answered our prayers and made a way out of no way. As soon as the next perceived crisis comes, we forget he delivered us before and almost go into a panic. His words, "Don't you remember" and "Do you still not understand" rings loud in our ears."

When I read this, I know that there is still hope for me and the Holy Spirit will have patience with me as I learn.

Scripture References: **Matt 28:16-20**, *John 3:16*, *Acts 11:26*, *Matt 3:16*, *Mark 1:9*, *Mark 3:16-17*, *John 14:16*, *Mark 12:10*, *Luke 14:26-28*, *Mark 4:40*, *Mark 8:13-21*,

END