

## MAKE DISCIPLES

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December 30, 2018

Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 14:25-35

1. The Apostle Peter believed that truth worth knowing was worth repeating.

2 Peter 1:12-15

“Therefore, **I will always be ready to remind you of these things**, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder**, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.”

2. He used the same terminology in 2 Peter 3:1-2.

“This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which **I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder**, 2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”

3. Today’s message is part one of a two-part message that I feel needs to be emphasized on a regular basis dealing with six qualities that should characterized the life of a true follower of Jesus Christ.

4. The scriptures we will look at clearly reveal what Jesus had in mind when He told the Apostles to go and make disciples.

5. In Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus made it clear that a disciple is to:

- a. Publicly identify with Jesus through believer’s baptism.
- b. Be taught to observe (obey) all that Jesus commanded.
- c. Appropriate and trust in the presence of Jesus all the days of their lives.

6. I have often heard preachers refer to the meaning of the Greek word “disciple” in trying to determine what Jesus meant when He used the word.

7. However, we do not need to wonder what He meant because He clearly gave His own meaning to the word during His earthly teaching ministry.

NOTE: The Bible is the best commentary on the Bible, and the Holy Spirit is the best teacher.

8. The Holy Spirit would have brought to the Apostles remembrance the things Jesus taught about true discipleship, and we see that fact reflected in their lives and their writings. John 14:25-27

25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, **and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**”

9. So how did Jesus define what would characterize the lives of His disciples?

10. What is God seeking to do in my life and your life?

11. What standard are you measuring your life with Christ against?

## **I. They will love Him supremely. Luke 14:25-26**

A. The word “hate” that Jesus used carries with it the idea of “by comparison of his love for Me.”

B. In other words our radical love for Jesus Christ is to have no rivals.

C. We see this truth stated in Matt 10:34-39

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 "For I came to

SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

37 "**He who loves (and takes more pleasure in) father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves (and takes more pleasure in) son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.** 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me (that is, cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living and if need be in dying also) is not worthy of Me. 39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." (inserts from Amplified Bible)

D. If we love Jesus as we should we will side with Him even though that may mean having to offend those nearest and dearest to us.

**NOTE: Is our desire to see lost family members saved based on our love for them or our love for and loyalty to Jesus?**

## **II. They will take up their own cross and follow wherever Jesus leads. Luke 14:27**

A. These words were spoken at a time when taking up a cross meant only one thing: death!

B. The Apostles had probably witnessed a number of Roman executions by crucifixion.

C. The point is that we cannot follow wherever Jesus leads until we have died to self, others, and this world.

D. Paul understood this truth.

1. Gal 2:20

20 "**I have been crucified with Christ;** and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

2. 1 Cor 15:31

31 “I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**”

3. Towards the end of Paul’s first missionary journey he returned to the cities he had previously visited, “strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’ Acts 14:22

### **III. They will surrender all aspects of their lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ. 33**

- A. What comes to mind when we think of possessions?
- B. I think Jesus meant a lot more than just things like money and tangible things like homes and cars.
- C. He was referring to relationships, reputations, rights and anything else we may value or call our own.
- D. We see this truth reflected in how Jesus dealt with three individuals we read about in Luke 9:57-62.

As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- 1. "Follow Me if you will, but that may mean no home to call your own."
- 2. "Follow Me without setting any conditions." (I get to set the conditions.)

NOTE: Following Jesus is not about comfort and convenience.

- 3. "Follow Me, and let Me call the shots."

#### **APPLICATION:**

- 1. Next week we will look at three other characteristics that will define the lives of Jesus' disciples.
- 2. The Gospel, properly presented, is designed by God to result in genuine repentance towards Him and a life-changing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3. The Gospel properly proclaimed and embraced:
  - a. Lifts up and exalts our glorious God, His righteousness, and His wrath against sin and sinners.
  - b. Causes us to loath our sin and sinful nature.
  - c. Leads us to leave our sin and to embrace our Savior.
  - d. Awakens within us a love for our Triune God that equips us to love others the way God intended us to.