

Being a Disciple-Maker

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19

The call of every disciple is to be a "fisher of men," and since the only way for a man to be "caught" for Jesus Christ is for that man to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ, then every disciple is called to be a disciple-maker.

Jesus' hour had come. It was about to become the hour of the disciples. He was about to fulfill the work the Father had given Him to do, then leave His disciples and go to the Father. There was a world of men, women and children who needed to hear the good news of His death and resurrection. Sins could be forgiven, people could become new creatures in Christ Jesus – children of God, disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ! However, before Jesus left, there were vital truths the disciples needed to know in order to carry out this work. A commissioning had to take place.

We have looked at the call of a disciple, the cost of discipleship, and the commitment of being a disciple. Now we want to look at the **commissioning of a disciple** – and what that means to us today.

Sir Ernest Shackleton purportedly used this newspaper advertisement to recruit men for his Trans-Antarctica expedition in 1914, and supposedly he had men lining up to join!

**"MEN WANTED:
FOR HAZARDOUS JOURNEY, SMALL WAGES, BITTER COLD,
LONG MONTHS OF COMPLETE DARKNESS,
CONSTANT DANGER,
SAFE RETURN DOUBTFUL.
HONOUR AND RECOGNITION IN CASE OF SUCCESS.
SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON"**

What if you came across this advertisement posted on your church missionary bulletin board?

**"DISCIPLE-MAKERS WANTED:
FOR HAZARDOUS JOURNEY, ONLY SUBSISTENCE WAGES GUARANTEED,
BITTER COLD OF BEING HATED FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,
DARKNESS OF PERSECUTION FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,
CONSTANT SPIRITUAL DANGER,
SAFE RETURN DOUBTFUL, ETERNITY SECURE.
HONOUR AND RECOGNITION REGARDLESS OF SUCCESS.
LORD JESUS CHRIST."**

Would men line up to join this expedition? Would you join this expedition? If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, you already have!

John 15:16-20

16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before [it hated] you.

19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

2 Timothy 3:12

12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted .

OBSERVE

Just hours away from His arrest, mock trial, torture and crucifixion, Jesus used these precious moments to prepare His disciples for the tribulation they too would face as His followers.

*Leader: Read John 15:16-20 and have the group mark every pronoun referring to the **disciples** as you have done previously.*

*Also say aloud and mark the word **love** with a heart and **hate**.*

DISCUSS

What do you learn from marking references to the disciples? Move through these verses one by one:

Do you think Christians expect to suffer as a follower of Jesus Christ? What brings the suffering?

Have you ever seen that the more you become like Christ, the closer you follow Him, the less the "the world" likes you? Have you experienced this in your business? How?

OBSERVE

Leader: Read aloud 2 Timothy 3:12.

According to this verse, who will be persecuted?

If you haven't experienced this in your business, what is one possible explanation?

John 15:26-27

26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, [that is] the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me,

27 and you [will] bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:7-14

7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;

9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;

11 and concerning judgment,

After Jesus tells His disciples that the world hated Him, persecuted Him and would do the same to them, He reminds them that although He is going away, God is sending them a Helper, just like Him. The Helper is the Holy Spirit who will live within them. This is the promise of the Father.

*Leader: Read John 15:26-27 and have the group mark every reference to the **Holy Spirit** (Helper, Spirit of truth, He) and say aloud and mark **bear witness**.*

DISCUSS

What do you learn from marking the references to the Helper?

Of whom does the Spirit bear witness?

What were the disciples to do? Bear witness of whom? How?

OBSERVE

*Leader: Read John 16:7-14 and again mark every reference to the **Helper** and the **Spirit**, including pronouns and synonyms. Also say aloud and mark **convict**.*

DISCUSS

Based on what this passage teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit, answer and discuss these questions.

Who sends the Helper?

What had to happen to Jesus before the Helper could be sent?

Will the Helper come to the world or to the disciples?

because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear [them] now.

13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

14 "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose [it] to you.

What will He do through the disciples? In the text, number the three things He will convict the world of through the disciples.

What else will the Helper do?

According to verse 9, why or how does the Spirit convict the world of sin?

What did you learn from verse 10 about the Helper's conviction of the world concerning righteousness?

How can the world be convicted of righteousness if Jesus is gone?

Is it not by the world seeing His righteousness in us – that we don't live the same way others live in habitual sin? Think about this: The world can't see Jesus because He is not here. But He lives in you, therefore you don't live as you lived before you became His follower. You don't live the way the rest of the world lives. Now you live righteously – you live according to God's standards. Therefore the Holy Spirit in you convicts the world of righteousness because they see it is possible for a man to live life on a higher plane.

Is the world in general being convicted of righteousness by the church in general?

Is the world in general being convicted of righteousness by Christian business and professional men in the marketplace?

What does this tell you about the state of those who profess to be Christians?

Matthew 28:16-20

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

17 And when they saw Him, they worshiped [Him]; but some were doubtful.

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

In verse 11, why or how does the Spirit convict the world of judgment? How do we participate with Him in this?

How can we as followers of Jesus Christ live in the business world in such a way that the world is convicted by the Spirit within us of sin, righteousness, and judgment? Give some practical ways.

OBSERVE

After Jesus died for the sins of mankind, was buried, and raised from the dead on the third day, He spent the next forty days with His disciples, instructing them about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Before He left them to go to the Father, He commissioned them.

*Leader: Read Matthew 28:16-20 and have the group say aloud and mark every reference to the **disciples** with an arrow underline as before  and **therefore** with three dots in the shape of a triangle.*

*When that has been done, have the group read through the passage a second time. Circle every **all** and the word or phrase it modifies. Also underline all the **verbs** in verses 19-20 that tell what Jesus wants the disciples to do.*

DISCUSS

What was Jesus commissioning the disciples to do?

On what basis?

Leader: Read aloud the INSIGHT box.

INSIGHT

The Greek and grammar are helpful in fully understanding the "Great Commission." The main verb in Matthew 28:19-20 is translated "make disciples." This word means to instruct with the purpose of becoming attached to the instructor, the purpose of making a disciple. It is in the imperative mood, making it a command.

The other verbs – "go," "baptizing," and "teaching" – are all present participles that support or accompany the making of disciples.

The primary command in this passage is for the disciple *to make disciples*. Number the three verbs you underlined in verses 19-20 that describe how this is to be done and list them below.

It was common for teachers in this day to have disciples and to refer to them as such. What is Jesus commanding us to do – make disciples of whom?

What does this imply about how we are to make disciples?

Why didn't Jesus command us to evangelize? What does "baptizing them," mean? Read Acts 8:26-40 and 1 Corinthians 1:11-17.

What is to be taught? Read Hebrews 5:11-6:3 and 2 Timothy 2:15, and discuss what and how a disciple-maker is to teach.

What do we learn from marking *all*? Where is *all* used? What is connected with *all* – all what?

What is Jesus' promise to His disciples?

How do you think this passage relates to believers today? How does this passage relate to you today?

Mark 10:28-30

28 Peter began to say to Him,
"Behold, we have left everything and followed You."

29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,

30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and

OBSERVE

We learned earlier about the cost of being His disciple – the persecution, the suffering that accompanies it. Now let's look at the promise Jesus gives His disciples.

*Leader: Read aloud Jesus' words to Peter in Mark 10:28-30 and have the group say aloud and mark ~~left~~ with a slash and **follow** the same way you marked disciple. →*

DISCUSS

What had the disciples left?

sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

Was this anything less than what Jesus had explained to them when He called them to be His disciples and spelled out the cost?

What is Jesus' promise? What can a disciple-maker expect to receive?

Practically, it's easy to see how the persecutions come, but how does one receive a hundred times as much in houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms?

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES DISCOVERED

- The call of salvation is a call to join God in his redemption of the world. **Every disciple is called to be a disciple-maker.** We cannot make disciples unless we are first a true disciple ourselves.
- **Disciple-making is hazardous duty.** We will be hated and persecuted just like our Master was hated and persecuted.
- We are not alone, the **Holy Spirit was given to us** for this great commission.
- We make disciples by **affirming** new believers and **teaching** them the Word of God.
- Jesus promises to **repay a hundred fold** what we give up for Him.

BUSINESS APPLICATION

1. How can you carry out the Great Commission and be a disciple-maker in and through your business?

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