



Well, we're here! We are at the finale...the final 3 commands of Jesus. But it's really just the beginning! These last weeks have been absolutely life-giving for me. Searching through the scriptures to really look at the Author and Perfecter of our faith. I've been challenged and encouraged. I've felt the discipline of the Lord on my life for sure, but I've also experienced His grace.

1 John 5

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Loving God is not burdensome. Obedience is not burdensome. It's easy. Even if the call is to Nineveh, as it turns out, Nineveh is way easier than being in the belly of the whale!

Matthew 11

[28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The only way the yoke of the Lord is unbearable is if you're trying to wear it without first throwing off everything else. Make sense? That's why the door is repentance. It's where we throw off every other thing.

Hebrews 12

[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

I. GO MAKE AND BAPTIZE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

GO

- A. The first thing to discuss is the command to GO! There are so many conferences out there on how to create a seeker-sensitive church experience. But it's really not Biblical at all. We are to go! It's imperative that we actually take some action. Disciples don't make themselves. It's through contact. It's viral in its nature.



A **virus** is a small infectious agent that can replicate only inside the living cells of an organism.

- B. This is how the Good News is passed. It's infectious in its nature. It can only live for so long without a host. It's transmitted through living cells! You are a carrier of the Gospel. You've been infected with it. And this is the Good News. Why should we have more faith in the power of AIDS or an STD than we would the Gospel? Most of the time I'm afraid we are worried that what we have will not easily transmit. Friends, it is contagious. What you have will spread. You just need contact!

Matthew 13

[31] He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. [32] It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

MAKE DISCIPLES

- C. I know we've talked about this before, but it's important to cover it again. We are not called to make converts, but rather we are called to make disciples. What the difference? It's like saying we are called to perform wedding ceremonies, without regard for the actual marriage. The wedding ceremony is glorious... but it's just the door! What if the bride had no understanding that after throwing the most elaborate party of her life, putting on her diamond ring, and wearing her gorgeous gown, saying her lines of, "I do," etc... what if after all of that she had no understanding that she actually had to go make a life with the Bridegroom? The wedding is important, but only because it's the door, the entry point, to the marriage!
- D. I'm not poo-pooing the wedding ceremony, not at all... but when we perform them, it's our job to relate the pronouncement of union to the ever after of what comes next! Whether we do this in LOVEwalk, our homes, our workplaces... this must be our understanding, and also the understanding of the disciple.
- E. "Disciple" means "learner or pupil." A New Testament disciple is one who is under biblical instruction. In the Bible, some people followed Jesus only a short time and then dropped out because of the cost. The Lord expected discipleship to involve total commitment if one was going to be able to fully follow through as a disciple. Being a disciple and being a believer are not one and the same. Salvation is a free gift but being a disciple means there is a cost.

BAPTIZE THEM

- F. Jesus was baptized, and Paul... all of the disciples were baptized. Years ago, in a series I did called the Elementary Doctrines of the Faith, I did a whole teaching on the meaning behind baptism. It's really a priestly preparation, and one that preceded the anointing into office.

Romans 6



[1] What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? [2] By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? [3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

[5] For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. [6] We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. [7] For one who has died has been set free from sin. [8] Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. [9] We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. [10] For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. [11] So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

[12] Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. [13] Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. [14] For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

G. Dunk away! What's the requirement to baptize someone? What I see in the command, is that the requirement is the willingness to teach and disciple them. I am for the priesthood of the believer! This is what I see in the scripture. We are all able to step into the obedience. My only concern is that we not separate these holy acts from the responsibility to follow through.

II. TEACH THEM TO OBEY

Matthew 28

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

A. This is our command. It's not just for those people in "full-time ministry." Well, maybe it would be better said that we should all consider ourselves enrolled in full-time ministry.

1 Peter 2

[4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...

[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



- B. This is our role. To know the commands, to teach them as commands, but then there is more than that... we are to instruct these disciples on how to observe the commands. How do you really walk out loving an enemy?? How do you really keep your eyes free from immorality? It's more than just the what, it's the how that we have been commanded to demonstrate. And this takes time and a lot of effort... This is why we've been commanded to do it. Jesus knows that in order for us to mature, we need the scrutiny of discipleship. I could ask any parent this and there would be one answer for sure, "When were you most stretched in personal growth? As a son or daughter, or as a parent?" Hands down, we are more transformed in the parenting process. And why is that? Because your more engaged in the process of parenting. It's not happening to you, the process is happening through you.
- C. You will never mature without obeying the command to disciple. Never. We all need the scrutiny! Maybe you've heard the statement, "Do as I say and not as I do." Many times as parents we are caught in a double standard... but this can never be in discipleship. We have a very bad name for it... hypocrisy. There can be no double standard in discipleship. And that's what makes it costly. If you want to begin to really grow spiritually, then this is what you need to do. Get three or four people and start a group. Make a commitment to them and begin the process.

III. BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND RECEIVE POWER

Luke 24

[49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1

[4] And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7] He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- A. Receiving the Holy Spirit is a not optional for the disciple. It's imperative. Receiving power is a command. And why do we need power? We need power to be witnesses...Jesus' witnesses. We need power to obey, to teach and instruct. We need God!!
- B. There is a kind of Christianity that really has nothing to do with the Gospel. It's a type and a form, but has no power in it. If you are still egocentric and your whole understanding of the faith is the benefit that accrues to you, then you have actually missed the greatest salvation of God! He came to save us from egocentrism, not to give us a new brand of egocentrism that is spiritual! The baptism is about being His witness... not your own! If you will let Him have you, and I mean all of you, He will lead you in the most tremendous ways. He will!