



Last week, at our Deeper prayer meeting on Friday night, God began to highlight Matthew 28, and the call of Jesus to disciple others. We began to pray it through together and I felt the Lord on it as a directive for us right now. So, today begins a new series for us. One that will be life changing, or at least has the possibility of being life changing, if we will be doers and not just hearers of the Word. Hearing alone is not enough to transform... It's in the application that we are changed. Over the next weeks, we will talk about the 50 commandments of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We will be fruitful! And we will multiply!!

I. OUR COMMISSION

Matthew 28

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."

A. Let's look at just this one phrase, "make disciples." What does it mean to be a disciple?

DISCIPLE, n. [L., to learn.]

1. A learner; a scholar; one who receives or professes to receive instruction from another; as the disciples of Plato.

2. A follower; an adherent to the doctrines of another. Hence the constant attendants of Christ were called his disciples; and hence all Christians are called his disciples, as they profess to learn and receive his doctrines and precepts.

DISCIPLE, v.t.

1. To teach; to train, or bring up.

2. To make disciples of; to convert to doctrines or principles.

3. To punish; to discipline.

B. When we profess allegiance to Jesus, when we are born again, **out of** slavery to sin and **into** loyalty to God, we are not professing a one-time shift in thinking. No, discipleship is ongoing and constant in it's nature. It speaks to a state of receiving, really a state of relating. It's not a label, we're defined by it only as long as we relate in it.

John 14:15

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21, 23



[21] Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him... [23] *Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

- C. Jesus has no problem connecting love with obedience. In our day, this notion has gone out of style. We want to profess our love even while we many times blatantly disregard the words of Jesus... but I don't think Jesus will be fooled. Love and obedience go hand in hand. And today's disciples know this as surely as the disciples who walked with Jesus just over 2,000 years ago. If we love Him we will obey Him.
- D. The trouble is, not many of us actually know what Jesus has commanded us! Let's learn. It's funny, sometimes I sing this song that goes something like this, "O God, I want to love you more." I just like to sing it. But the truth is that if I want love to flourish in my heart, all I need to do is obey more. Love and obedience go hand in hand. And they always will.
- E. So what are the commands of Christ?
- F. There are several lists out there. The one I'm using comes from lessons compiled by Bill Gothard. We've been commanded to teach these commands, so we need to know them.

II. THE FIRST SIX

1. REPENT

Matthew 4

[17] From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- A. Before he called his disciples, before he did any miracles, and before he preached a message...this is what Jesus commands. Jesus wasn't issuing a new message from God, rather this call is found 60 times in the Old Testament and more than 15 times in the New.
- B. It's amazing to me that Jesus puts this out first. It's so offensive. Isn't it? To call a people to repentance, is an absolute indictment that they have done wrong. It's offensive...especially if you are under the delusion that you've done nothing wrong! The unfolding of Jesus' message begins with offense.

REPENT'ANCE, n.

1. Sorrow for any thing done or said; the pain or grief which a person experiences in consequence of the injury or inconvenience produced by his own conduct.

2. In theology, the pain, regret or affliction which a person feels on account of his past conduct, because it exposes him to punishment. This sorrow proceeding merely from the fear of punishment, is called legal repentance, as being excited by the terrors of legal penalties, and it may exist without an amendment of life.



3. Real penitence; sorrow or deep contrition for sin, as an offense and dishonor to God, a violation of his holy law, and the basest ingratitude towards a Being of infinite benevolence. This is called evangelical repentance, and is accompanied and followed by amendment of life.

Repentance is a change of mind, or a conversion from sin to God.

- C. Because the mission of Jesus is about bringing reconciliation, it's absolutely necessary that His message to us begins with a call to repent. After all, God did not and has not forsaken us, but rather we have all gone astray. The call is to come back! He calls us to turn around. It is pure love in action. It is absolutely offensive, and it is absolutely love. He says, "You have left me, now come back to me."

2. LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

John 14

[27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16

[33] I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Matthew 6

[25] "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

[26] Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

- A. I think sometimes we view this command in particular as a sentimental cliché to write on a pick-me-up card when someone is going through a down time. But in actuality this is one of the commands of Christ. I know I haven't lived this out in obedience, but starting today I want to give myself in obedience in a brand new way. How about you?

3. FOLLOW ME

Matthew 4

[19] And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make _____."

- A. What is He saying here? Come be with me. Don't learn at a distance. No, come be with me. He's not creating a little club. From the beginning, He's including us into His plan of redemption. Discipleship is not just about us and Jesus is it?

4. REJOICE



Matthew 5:12

[12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- A. Have you ever considered that Jesus has commanded you to be glad? What a profound thought!! How are we to do this... Jesus points us to another reality, an unshakeable reality. He links gladness and joy with persecution, and places us on par with the prophets of old.

2 Corinthians 6

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. [3] We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, [4] but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5] beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6] by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; [7] by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; [8] through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; [9] as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; [10] as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

James 1

[2] Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- B. Let us be so careful not to take a word and manipulate it to mean what we want it to mean. There is something mysterious to me about real joy. Because it is most evident when circumstances would dictate otherwise. It is a grace that we step into, like every other command. It cannot be worked out through the flesh, but only by the Spirit.

5. LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Matthew 5

[16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- A. There are two parts to this command: 1) Let your good deeds be seen, and 2) so the Father will be praised. Just a few verses later Jesus will tell us not to expose our good works, not even to let our right hand know what our left hand is doing (Matthew 6:3-4). What do you make of this?

6. HONOR GOD'S LAW

Matthew 5

[17] "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [18] For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot,



will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. [19] Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

- A. Honor what God has said! What do you think Jesus meant by “one of the least of these commandments”? What does He mean? Have you ever relaxed one of His commandments? Have you instructed others to do the same?
- B. No one is allowed to teach but not do. We are all called to do the commandment first and then we are allowed to teach. Let's make sure we are doers of the Word!

III. ORDER IS EVERYTHING

- A. Recently, I've been hearing the Lord speak a phrase into my heart for us. It's simple, but it goes along with what we're learning today. It's the phrase, “Be fruitful and multiply.” This is the very first command God ever gave to man (Genesis 1:22). There's an order. First, be fruitful. Do the word. And then multiply... teach others to do the same. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Come to me, and then gather others to me!
- B. God desires that you would be fruitful. This week, let's focus on these commands of Jesus. Let's find ways to apply them to our lives.