

Discipleship Part 2

Follow Me as I Follow Christ

1. Introduction

- a. As your pastor, sometimes I look across this group of people and ask myself, how can I minister to all these people. Because as I look over this congregation, I see people in different stages of their journey with God. Some may even be looking for God. Others may be stagnated, others crushed by disappointment, sorrow and heartaches of life. Others are newly married, some with financial problems, others out of a job, still others with marital problems. As I look over you, I wonder, “how can I minister to these diverse needs with a single message each week.” There are as many needs here as there are people!
- b. I wonder, did Jesus ever face a problem like this? Well, yes, he did! He had crowds before him, demanding, following, aching, needing healing and deliverance.
- c. I read something in Jesus’ high priestly prayer in John 17:4 that kind of threw me for a loop. “*I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*”
 - i. As I read that, initially I thought about the “work” of redemption on the cross when He cried out “It is finished.”
 1. And I had to ask myself, “Is that what he meant in this prayer?” After all, the work of the cross wasn’t finished yet when he prayed this prayer. In fact, on the cross, he declares “It is finished.”
 2. But as I read the context of the passage, I discover something else.
 - ii. John 17:1-18 *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: 2"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. 6"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. 12While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. 13"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."*
 - iii. In this passage and the rest of the prayer, he doesn’t mention the miracles or the multitudes to whom He ministered. He only mentions the MEN the Father had given Him out of this world. In fact, he mentions **them** 40 times in this prayer alone!
 1. Jesus touched thousands but only trained 12.
 2. **Jesus gave his life on the cross for billions, but gave his life uniquely to 12 men.**
 3. While we emphasize the work Jesus did on the cross, Jesus emphasized the development of 12 men into whom He poured His life.

4. The message and the ministry could not go forward without men.
 - a. He chose 12. he trained 12. He focused on 3 of them (Peter, James and John) with special emphasis.
5. The redemption was the work he alone could do. No one else could do it. But he had 3 years to train 12 men to think differently about the Kingdom of God and who they were, so they could reproduce themselves.
 - a. But these men, they were the living embodiment of the carrying of that work of redemption to the world. These 12 would pour their lives into others, and in turn others.
 - i. The apostle John trained up several notable disciples who became significant church leaders. Polycarp was John's disciple and was martyred. Polycarp trained Iranaeus who later became a church leader.
6. Why did the church grow so quickly? Not just because of good preaching! But because the disciples "made disciples!" If each disciple made one disciple each year, in 19 years, over 6 million 'DISCIPLES' WOULD be equipped.

1.	12	2	24
2.	24	2	48
3.	48	2	96
4.	96	2	192
5.	192	2	384
6.	384	2	768
7.	768	2	1536
8.	1536	2	3072
9.	3072	2	6144
10.	6144	2	12288
11.	12288	2	24576
12.	24576	2	49152
13.	49152	2	98304
14.	98304	2	196608
15.	196608	2	393216
16.	393216	2	786432
17.	786432	2	1572864
18.	1572864	2	3145728
19.	3145728	2	6291456
7. The power of multiplication. 12 men, doubling themselves each year in 19 years would have 6.2 million disciples. And I am certain that the disciples mentored more than one person a year.

2. Are you seeing the picture yet?

- a. Matthew 28:19-20 says, *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
 - i. Jesus called us to make disciples not converts or build churches. He called us to make disciples because that is what He did.
 - ii. I shared last week my realization that I had pretty much wasted the past 8 years of my ministry here because I was engaged in perpetuating the institution instead of making disciples. Well, that is going to stop.
 1. I have already found 3 men in our church willing to let me disciple them. I figure I can do 6.
 2. That means you can do ONE.

b. Make disciples. Make disciples. How?

- i. The answer is found in other great men of God in the bible: Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha. Jesus made disciples as well. How did He do it? He said, "*come follow me.*" (Matthew 4:19).
- ii. To follow him was to be "with him." The pattern for disciples in the rabbinical life was to follow and "eat the dust" of your teacher! Live life in their footsteps.
- iii. 2 Tim 3:10-11 "*You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings - what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured.*"
 1. How did Timothy know? Because he was "WITH" him.
 2. In other words, you observed what I went through.

3. So what do I do?

- a. Count the cost.
 - i. It will cost you time to make a disciple and it may cost you disappointment.
 - ii. It will cost you time to be a disciple. And expect your mentor to be imperfect!

4. What is involved?

- a. **A clear idea of what we want a disciple to KNOW.** (beliefs)
 - i. A disciple should know what the bible says, about who they are in Christ and who God says they are. They should have understanding of what the Christian life entails and consists of, what God says about the challenges of life itself.
 - ii. John 8:32 "*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"
 - iii. We will teach what you need to KNOW/Believe in large group bible studies at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.
- b. **A clear idea of what we want a disciple to BECOME.** (practices)
 - i. A disciple should become an image, a replica of their Master. They should resemble Christ in their own life.
 - ii. Many of these things will be learned in a small group setting. A giver, an intercessor, a worshipper.
 - iii. Matthew 10:24-25 "*A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.*"
- c. **A clear idea of what we want a disciple to DO.** (actions)
 - i. A disciple should do what Jesus did.
 - ii. John 14:12 "*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*"
 - iii. These will be learned one-on-one, in our ONE2ONE Disciplemaking pairs.
 - iv. How to have a quiet time, walking with God, hearing God, letting God use you.

5. How can you participate?

- a. This is a costly endeavor. It will change your life. It will require a commitment from you like you have never committed before. It will require a laying down your life for another, and a willingness to learn. This will not be easy. Disciple makers will be required to meet together as a small group weekly with me, and weekly or more often with their disciple. And Disciples will be committing to at least a year of intensive OJT.
- b. Are you willing to pay the price? If so, Inside your bulletin, is your response form to indicate your willingness to be discipled, be a disciple maker, to participate in a small or large group experience. Please fill that out. If you were here last week, Please turn it in today. If not, pray over it this week.

Additional Scriptures:

Paul

2 Thess. 3:7-9 “For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.”

1. Model: = Tupos – “example, form, image, pattern”
2. Example = Mimeomai – “to mimic”

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

Moses and Joshua:

Exodus 24:12-13 “The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." 13 Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God.”

Exodus 33:11 “The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.”

Numbers 27:15-20 “Moses said to the LORD, "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD's people will not **be** like sheep without **a shepherd.**" So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him.”

Joshua 4: 14 “That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses.”

Joshua 11:15 As the LORD commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing **undone** of all that the LORD commanded Moses.”

Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 19:19-21 “So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.”