

Discipleship 9: Putting on Christ

1. Matthew 28:18-20 makes that clear when Jesus says, “*go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey (be and do) everything I have commanded you, and I will be with you always.*”
 - a. Last week we talked about “go” = “as you are going about your everyday life” and what that looked like. That every person we influence is essentially an act of discipling, whether a pre-believer or a believer. We must be infectious with the love of Jesus Christ. We must carry an awareness of the Presence of God. And we will only be as effective as our intimacy with God to bring the power of the Indwelling Presence of God to bear upon a need.
 - b. (Inward, Upward, Outward). Last week I discussed that we must go inward and upward in order to go outward (our goal). Inward is about developing the disciplines of maintaining the intimacy and strength of our relationship with God (upward).
2. Some other things this passage tells us about is that we are to:
 - a. As you go about your daily life...
 - b. **Make Disciples**
 - c. **Baptize all believers into Christ** by water baptism.
 - d. **Teach each believer to obey and do all that Jesus commanded us**
 - e. and last, what we often overlook, is where **Jesus tells us that He will be WITH US always.**
3. Jesus said here he would be “with us always, even to the end of the age.”
 - a. What did Jesus mean? Would he literally be present to us? Would he be just as close as a prayer we can utter? Would he be “out there” somewhere for us to summon?
 - b. We all know God is present...and we tend to think of Him as “out there.” Don’t we? After all, isn’t that the way the world looks at God, because they don’t have relationship with God?
 - i. In fact, if you haven’t received Christ as Savior and Lord, and surrendered your life to Him, you can ONLY look at God that way... “Out There Somewhere” or “Up there.”
 - ii. But if you are a believer in Christ and have received Him as Savior by placing your unconditional trust in His provision, sacrifice and love for you...then you get to see Jesus differently.
 - c. In the book of John, Jesus tells his disciples that He would be more than just “with us.”
 - i. John 14:15-17 “*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*”
 - ii. This alludes to a very important truth of the Christian life. But Jesus was clearly communicating that He would be IN US in the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. The truth that you and I are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the dwelling place of the Most High God!
 1. 1Co 6:19 “*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*”
 2. Each believer, once we belong to Christ, is sealed with the Holy Spirit, and indwelt by the very Presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit.
 3. You become a vessel of the Holy Spirit, a container that holds the literal presence of Jesus, waiting and desiring to get out and touch others.
4. It gets better! In 1 Cor 3:16-17“ *Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.*” Here the Apostle Paul takes a different approach to describing us as the temple.
 - a. You notice he doesn’t SAY that you and I are “temples” (plural) of the Holy Spirit.

- a. We tend to individualize the word of God and fail to read it as it was written, for a covenant community, a group of people who together formed the family of God because they were united and collectively empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- b. The “you” that is mentioned is plural, “YOU ALL TOGETHER.”, not the temple. **So even though we individually are a temple, we collectively form THE temple.**
 - a. Its gets even better...the word for temple is the word used to describe the holy of holies within the temple, the sanctuary that until the death of Christ only the high priest was permitted to enter, and only once a year. And Jesus raised up a temple through His death and resurrection that literally is the HOLY OF HOLIES!
 - b. “Literally, a sanctuary (naov, not ieron, the sacred enclosure, but the holy place and the most holy place) of God. The same picture of building as in verse 9 (oikodomh), only here the sanctuary itself.” (Robertsons Word Pictures)
 - c. While each of us by ourselves is a container of the Holy Spirit, a vessel, literally a temple, **together** we form the Holy Place of the Temple.
 - d. I believe that this explains some of our experience of the manifest presence of God when we gather in corporate worship. I have heard many people say and have experienced the same thing myself, that the tangible presence of God is so much more intense in corporate worship as opposed to private worship.
 4. Both are important.
 5. I have heard people say, “I can worship by myself (out on the golf course or in my deer stand.” But they are denying this very important part of the scriptures that tells us that when we get together, that collectively we form the very holy place, the holy of holies where worship occurs!
 6. Are you an independent contractor or are you doing life together?
 - a. In our busy world, we have to create space to intersect and add value to one another.
 - b. We need daily encouragement and support from each other.
 - c. We need one another to be present and spiritually healthy in corporate gatherings.
 - d. If you really think about it, this is what Paul means when he says “YOU (plural) are the temple of the Holy Spirit.”
- iv. We need to realize that corporate gatherings of Christians in worship brings the manifest presence of God to bear upon time, space, reality and this world in ways we cannot even imagine. This corporate image helps us understand why Paul told the church when they gathered that “*When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification*” (1 Cor 14:26)
 1. I looked up the Greek for “each one” and found it is better translated “EVERY.”
 - a. That means that each and every one of us should come prepared each and every week to contribute to worship in a meaningful way! *(Some of you may do it in our bible study (“has a teaching”) others may have a song, or a revelation, a prophetic word (from the bible or from the Holy Spirit), (and if you have a tongue, please, please, have an interpretation!). But we do it not for ourselves but to build up the body!
 - b. When I was a young Christian, I visited the church of the young lady who had witnessed to me. Amazingly, they had no pastor, no song leader, yet they worshipped because each person paid attention to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to speak up or sing a song. It was amazing to see the red thread of the Holy Spirit through the service.
 2. I believe we make an effort to make our worship Corporate and not one man or a handful of folks entertaining, but for all to CONTRIBUTE to the worship experience by bringing what God is doing and saying to the body!

- d. This is the most amazing thing, something that had been looked forward to in the bible for thousands of years. It was a mystery hidden for all the ages.
 - i. Colossians 1:25-27
"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
 - 1. Can you see what Paul is saying? Christ Jesus, IN YOU!
 - c. Last week was Pentecost Sunday. The Spirit of Jesus was placed inside each believer for the purposes of CARRYING ON the ministry of Christ!
 - d. Lloyd Olgivie puts it like this — *"The power of Pentecost is for people. What happened at Pentecost is for the paralysis of the world. The Holy Spirit, Christ in the present tense, is for the healing of people in the present age. The excitement and enthusiasm of the infilling of the Spirit was to create a people through whom the Lord could continue his ministry of restoration and healing. A new age was born, Christ was alive in his people, and they were now equipped to do what he had done and the greater things he promised — communicating his love and bringing people to him."*
5. **Individualistic Culture is not compatible with Christianity or being a disciple!**
- e. Mt 18:19-20 – *"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."*
 - ii. We can no longer be doing stuff on our own, living on our own power, in our own solitude or ability.
 - iii. There is great power and joy in gathering with other believers to exalt Jesus. Tonight, if you are a discipler, please join us here for a time of instruction and preparation for discipling the body of Christ!

- iv. If you are a believer, you have the Presence of the Holy Spirit within you. But you must “immerse” yourself in Him. I don’t mean a religious experience but rather, a lifestyle that begins with surrender and continues through surrender! It is only in a surrendered lifestyle that the power and love of Jesus is manifested through us!

v.

6. Disciples do what their teacher does.

- f. "Jesus healed in many ways, and all of them were miraculous. We must never lose sight of this fact.
 - g. On 21 occasions, he healed through his spoken word.
 - h. 13 times, he healed by touching someone.
 - i. 9 times, people were healed in the course of his preaching and teaching.
 - j. 8 times, he healed by driving out demons.
 - k. Another 8 times, he healed because someone other than the sick person demonstrated faith in him.
 - l. On 7 occasions, he healed because the sick person had faith.
 - m. 4 times, Jesus healed because he was moved with compassion.
 - n. At least one time, he healed when someone touched him.
 - o. Listen carefully — We need the miraculous in the church today. Postmodern people are too broken to be fixed through simple human caregiving; they need to be pieced back together through the supernatural healing of Jesus through his body, the church."
7. So what does this mean for you and I?
- a. We underestimate God. We misunderstand His purposes and plan. He sent His Son to set us free and to empower us to set others free, by His power and His Spirit.
 - b. That is what a disciple does. Exactly what his teacher does.
 - c. Let's get serious about it!

- p. **Develop Community** - Koinonea – God with skin on
- q. **Demonstrate Freedom and Grace**– God’s creativity unleashed
- r. **Discharge Dominion** – God with shoes on (outreach)

8.

9. Community.

10.

11. Grace and Freedom. Does church make you feel inadequate or encouraged? Most people I know who are running from religion are not rejecting Jesus, they are just tired of the condemnation and control that his followers demonstrate. Legalism is a huge problem in the church. Unless we lead with love, we forfeit the right to share truth.

12.

13. Dominion: Is your faith spilling out into your community and the world? We've been given spiritual power and authority for a reason. God wants his family back and he's chosen you and me as his tools to go get them.