

Title: Be Discipling

March 1, 2020

Text: Matthew 28:19-20

Call to Worship: Psalm 9

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1–11

Theme: You must be making disciples.

### **Introduction:**

What is the purpose of the Church? John Piper wrote a book years ago called Let the Nations Be Glad. The book begins, “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t.”<sup>1</sup> (See 1 Corinthians 10:31.) If worship is our greatest goal, what places do missions, fellowship, and discipleship have in our church?<sup>2</sup> We worship him by loving and living as he has commanded us. One of the commands that Christ has given us is the mandate of the Great Commission. See Mark 16:14–18; Luke 24:46–49; John 20:19–23, Acts 1:1-11. **As Christian you must be making disciples of Christ.**

## **I. The Discipling Mandate**

### **A. Our Task is to Make Disciples.**

Matthew 28:19. See also Acts 11:19–26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16.

### **B. Our Time to Make Disciples is Now.**

### **C. Our Target for disciples is all nations.**

See Mark 16:15–16; Luke 24:45–49; Acts 1:7–8.

- 1. Jerusalem (immediate vicinity/our town)**
- 2. Judaea and Samaria (nearby/ State, Country)**
- 3. Uttermost part (far away/world)**

If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?<sup>3</sup>

## **II. The Discipling Method**

### **A. Discipling requires planning**

#### **1. Defining Discipleship**

A disciple is “one who engages in learning through instruction from another, pupil, apprentice.”<sup>4</sup> See Matthew 9:14; Matthew 27:57; Luke 6:13.

“Discipleship is a process of becoming like Jesus Christ in our affections, our thoughts, and our behavior.”<sup>5</sup> See John 6:66–68

#### **2. Designing Discipleship**

- |                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>a. Win One</b>  | <b>1 Corinthians 9:19–23</b> |
| <b>b. Lead One</b> | <b>Titus 2:7–8</b>           |

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<sup>1</sup>John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*, 3rd ed., Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2010. Used by permission. P.15.

<sup>2</sup>The tasks of believers include but are not limited to meeting together (Acts 2:42-47, Heb 10:25), sharing and giving (2 Cor 9:7), praying (1 Thess 5:17), singing (Eph 5:19), blessing (Rom 12:14), rejoicing (Rom 12:15a), weeping (Rom 12:15b), submitting (government-Rom 13:1, each other-Eph 5:21, husbands-Eph 5:22, church leaders-Heb 13:17, God-Jam 4:7), and everything else Scripture tells us to do.

<sup>3</sup>David Livingstone said, “Forbid it that we should ever consider the holding of a commission from the King of Kings a sacrifice, so long as men esteem the service of an earthly sovereign an honor.”<http://www.leadershipresources.org/blog/christian-quotes-about-missions/>

<sup>4</sup>William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 609.

<sup>5</sup>Logan Gentry; <https://www.vergenetwork.org/2015/05/10/the-only-way-to-make-disciples/>

## B. **Discipling requires action**

### 1. **Seeking**

Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17

### 2. **Teaching**

Matthew 28:20

## C. **Discipling requires transformation**

### 1. **New Life**

John 3:1–8. See also Ephesians 2:1-5

### 2. **New Living**

#### a. **Knowing the Words of Christ is the start of the New Living**

Matthew 22:36–40

#### b. **Submitting to the Words of Christ is the standard of the New Living**

2 Corinthians 5:16–17; John 8:31; Luke 11:28; James 1:22; James 4:17

## III. **The Discipling Motive**

### A. **Love for Christ**

John 14:15; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15

### B. **Love for Others**

1 John 4:19–21; 3:11

## **Conclusion:**

### 5 COMMON MYTHS ABOUT THE GREAT COMMISSION<sup>6</sup>

Myth 1: It will just happen.

Myth 2: Crossing cultures is a step beyond the general mandate.

Myth 3: Jesus wants converts.

Myth 4: When I am ready and able, I will start making disciples.

Myth 5: Making disciples is great advice.

Several other myths (excuses) I've noticed:

Myth 6: I don't know enough about God or the Bible to disciple someone.

Myth 7: I'm too old or young to disciple someone.

Myth 8: It's the pastor's (or someone else's) job to disciple people.

**As Christian you must be making disciples of Christ.**

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.vergenetwork.org/2014/05/15/5-common-myths-about-the-great-commission/>