

“Built Together Part 16 - Discipleship” (3-3-24)

Series Review: Section 1 - Living in Community / Section 2 - Gifts for Building up in Love

Key Verse: Eph. 2:22 - “In him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Section 3: The Mature Church - 4 Components of a Mature, Healthy church produces fruit & reproduces life
(presence of God, community/fellowship, discipleship, outreach/mission)

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

(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.”

- **Presence** (vs. 18 & 20b - He has all the authority . . . He is with us always)
- **Community / Fellowship** (19b - baptize them into this community - the God community)
- **Discipleship** (19a & 20a - “make disciples . . . teaching them to observe all I have commanded”)
- **Outreach / Mission** (19a - “go . . . all nations”)

Last 2 weeks: Presence & Fellowship (Abiding in God’s Presence personally & corporately). Abiding - grows character which brings maturity (Parts 1-2), then in maturity we reproduce (Parts 3-4).

Today: Part 3 of 4 - **Discipleship (reproducing the life of Jesus in others!)**

We are called to make disciples, so what does that look like?

Matthew 4:18-20 (ESV)

(18) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Note: 3 key elements of being a disciple - Follow, Change, and Mission (From Matt. 4:19)

1) Follow Jesus

Mathew 4:19 - “Follow me”

We can only follow a living person (Matt 28:20 – Jesus said I am with you always!)

Not rules to follow. Not even a pattern to follow, but a person to follow! This is why when Jesus returned to the Father, He told us to make disciples, because we need a **person**! Consider Paul’s words . . .

1 Corinthians 4:14-17 (ESV)

(14) I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. (15) For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (16) I urge you, then, be imitators of me. (17) That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

Note: Paul disciplined Timothy, and now he sends a person (not just a letter) to the church in Corinth

Always remember making disciples isn’t about me, it’s about Jesus (1 Cor. 11:1 - Follow me as I follow Christ)

2) Being Changed by Jesus

Matthew 4:19 - "I will make you" – Jesus changes us (as we follow)

Change happens – slowly, instantly, gradually, in fits & starts

How does this change happen?

God's Part - the miracle of new life & transformation

Our Part - a responsive life, by practicing regular Obedience and/or Repentance

- **Repentance**

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

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

- **Obedience - "keep" in John 14**

(15) "If you love me, you will **keep** my commandments"

(21) "Whoever has my commandments and **keeps** them, he it is who loves me."

(23) Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will **keep** my word . . ."

"Keep" - attentive watching - to observe, or watch (like a guard keeping watch), to mark attentively

1 Peter 1:14-15 (ESV)

(14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct

"Obedient" - attentive listening - obey, listen to, hearken, comply (hearken - to heed what you hear)

3) Be on Mission with Jesus

Mathew 4:19 - "Fishers of men" (There are lots of other people that Jesus invites to follow, change, & mission)

- You are called to be part of that invitation!
- Whatever else you may be doing in life, your mission with Jesus is people!
- This gives value & purpose to even the most mundane. **You are** making disciples, what will they look like?

Look back where we started . . . Matt 28:20 – "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

(4) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (5) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (8) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (9) You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Notes: This is a way of life . . . "as you go" living!

What happens in the church if we don't make disciples by incorporating all 3 of these things . . .

- **No Follow** (Just Change & Mission) – Religious, I will be driven, & I will drive others too.
- **No Change** (Just Follow & Mission) – Seeker-Friendly or Social-Justice Gospels
(not the real Jesus - He transforms us!)
- **No Mission** (Just Follow & Change) – Short-sighted Spirituality & Selfish focused on me (1 generation only)

How can I start? Questions to ask the Lord regularly . . .

Follow - What's God saying to me right now? Fresh, alive, today!

Change - How does this challenge me, is there conviction or a call to action? Then repent & obey!

Mission - Who is my mission (big picture/today). How do I participate with Jesus to minister to them today?

Conclusion: A healthy church is abiding in the presence of God, committed to the fellowship of the saints, and is reproducing the life of Jesus in others by making Disciples who . . .

Follow Jesus, are being **Changed** by Jesus, & are on **Mission** with Jesus!