

Making Disciples, pt. 3 – What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple?

Matthew 28:18-20 - 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.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

What Does it Mean to be a Disciple?

- **1. Being a disciple means you follow another as they follow Jesus**
 - 2 Timothy 1:13 - Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
 - “follow” = eche = where we get our word “echo” from...
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1 - Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
 - Amplified: “Pattern yourselves after me [follow my example]”
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7 - 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
 - Hebrews 6:11-12 - 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
 - “imitators” = *mimétés* = Where we get “mimic” and “mime” from... copying the behavior of another
 - From Expository Dictionary of Bible Words: “Mimetes is a call to reproduce in our own way... those godly qualities that result from salvation and that we see in others.”
 - Aristotle used the word to mean those who copy another. He hypothesized that people became “imitators” of animals early in our history, learning to weave from spiders, learning house-building from birds, etc.
 - Plato emphasized becoming imitators of the gods, copying their behavior
 - Democritus talked about imitating the boldness of a hero, or the good example of one's teachers or parents
 - Ancient teaching methods were often built around imitation more than memorization
- Matthew 28:19-20 - 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.”
 - **2. Being a disciple means you're a born-again, baptized follower of Jesus**
 - **3. Being a disciple means you set your heart to obey Jesus in ALL things**
 - NIV: “teaching them to obey”
 - NASB: “teaching them to follow”
- “disciple” = *mathétés* = uses Greek prefix math- meaning “mental effort needed to think something through”... a learner... implies that the learning comes through both experience and reflection
 - **4. Being a disciple means you're committed to learn**
- “disciple” = comes from the Latin *capere* = “to take”
 - **5. Being a disciple means you're hungry to take what is good in another person and make it your own**
- **6. Being a disciple means you're FAT**

- F.A.T = F – Faithful... A – Available... T – Teachable
 - Faithful
 - Dictionary.com Definition - True to one's word, promises, vows, etc... Steady in allegiance... Reliable, trusted, believed... Thorough in the performance of duty
 - Available
 - If you never come, never show up, never are available... you'll have a hard time being a disciple
 - Teachable
 - Excerpt: Article “The Astoundingly Impressive \$400 Million Shaquille O'Neal Empire – How Shaq Makes More Money Retired Than He Did As A Player” - “Shaquille O'Neal spent the first \$1 million he made from the NBA within 30 minutes of receiving the check. You read that right. Shaquille O'Neal spent one million dollars in 30 minutes. He hadn't even played in a professional basketball game yet. Shaq may be a living basketball legend today, but once upon a time he was a 21 year old newly drafted NBA player fresh out of LSU who blew through money like it was going out of style. He very easily could have gone the way of so many other bankrupt and in debt athletes who, showered with money and fame at an early age, blow their wealth rather than build upon it. Fortunately for Shaq, two things happened next: #1) His banker immediately called him up in a rage, warning Shaq that he would end up like so many other athletes – FLAT BROKE – if he didn't get his life under control. #2) Shaq listened.”
- **7. Being a disciple means you surrender**
 - Being Jesus' disciple was a major disruption to their normal lives and routines

Making Disciples: The Four Soils

- Luke 8:5-8 - 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. 8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
 - Luke 8:15 - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.
 - Three out of four soils led nowhere in the long run... but one made incredible fruit. Making disciples is focusing on that one bit of good soil.