

DISCIPLES

PRECEPT

MATTHEW 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

PROMISE

Just as God calls the body of believers to go out and make disciples of all nations—as discussed last week in the Great Commission in Matthew—God also calls individual believers to go and disciple others within their spheres of influence. But often times, Christians have these doubts and false beliefs about making disciples, saying that disciple-making is only for those *super* Christians (pastors, church leaders, deacons). There are those Christians who are not very intentional about making disciples because they think they are not ready or equipped enough. There are all these excuses that we sometimes use just to not engage in discipleship. Discipleship.org and Exponential.net says in a survey that only less than 5% of churches in North America are disciple-making churches. This is alarming for the Great Commission is clearly a command of Jesus to us. This also shows that 95% of churches in North America are not obeying this very important command of God.

Making disciples is clearly stated in Matthew 28:18-20, ¹⁸ *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* A disciple is someone who knows God, follows Him, and grows to be like Him. Simply put, to make disciples is to intentionally lead someone to know Christ, follow Him, and help that person grow like Jesus. Here are some practical steps in order to accomplish this mission:

ENGAGE (INVITE). We can start introducing the Gospel to others by inviting them to a conversation that tells our story of transformation through encountering and following Christ. Romans 10:14 reminds us, "*How can people have faith in the Lord and ask Him to save them, if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?*" Also, commit to spending time with them and celebrating with them and even being with them in their tough times.

EQUIP (INVEST). 2 Timothy 2:1-2 says, "¹ *Be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. ² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*" By teaching others the Word of God and showing it to them with our lives, we are helping them be equipped for them to disciple and do the same to others.

EMPOWER (INSPIRE). We have many discipleship tools available in many different platforms in order to train others in discipling people. Let us do the example given to us in Colossians 1:28 saying, "*We proclaim Him by instructing and teaching all people with all wisdom so that we may present every person mature in Christ.*"

Aside from stating the Great Commission in our main passage, Christ also tells us about the promise that disciple-making entails, that He will be with us always! Let the words of Jesus empower you as you live out your faith and calling in making disciples wherever God planted you!

PRACTICE

1. The Great Commission. In what ways do you proclaim the Gospel and disciple others in your sphere of influence? Identify the areas in which you can improve.

2. Promise. What is God's promise when we obey God's commandment in Matthew 28:18-20? If you're a disciple-maker, how is this evident in your life?

PRAYER

I. Salvation

- Pray that the Gospel will be preached to all nations for the salvation of all.

II. Church

- Pray that all churches all over the world be intentional in sharing the love and the new life Christ brings.

III. Gospel

- Pray that we will always have opportunities of all sorts to share the Gospel to our circle of influence.

IV. Unity

- Pray that we will all speak, act, and live in unity with the Spirit for us to positively influence others.

V. Discipleship

- Pray for God's help to be obedient disciples for His kingdom and to give us the grace to disciple others.

VI. Faith

- Pray for steadfast faith that is founded in the love and sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

VII. Serving Others

- Pray that the Lord may enable the church to serve Him and others with genuine love and care.