

ALL BELIEVERS ARE TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:19-20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: It seems that most Christians have the idea that making disciples (winning the lost and teaching them) is a job for only a special gifted people (missionaries, pastors, evangelists, etc) and everybody else supports them in prayer and finances, however this is totally wrong for it is God's intent for EVERY believer to make disciples and the role of pastors and such is help train and equip all the body of Christ. Therefore the great commission of *Matthew 28:19-20* is not something for a special few, but a calling for every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. EVERYONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR MISSION

1. *Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8*
2. Believers are to GO, armed with God's authority and power, in line with God's aim/purpose and assured of God's presence.
 - Without going, the command to make disciples is impossible and therefore "going" is not a secondary option.
3. Believers are to BAPTIZE and TEACH those who accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior.
 - Baptism is a single act as evidence of salvation, and then teaching is a continuous process, teaching over and over to understand and obey God's Word.
4. Believers are to go out into the world to love and reach people for Christ which means being involved in prayer, loving their neighbors, and sharing the Gospel.
5. Believers are to baptize new believers as a public declaration of their new life in Jesus Christ after winning them to the Lord through the Gospel message.
6. Believers are to build up the new believers in the Word, teaching them to know, guard and apply God's Word to their lives so they can in turn become disciples makers who are involved in helping grow the Church.

II. EVERYONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY MAKE DISCIPLES

1. *Acts 1:4-8*
- 2 Making disciples, reaching and building people in Christ can be effectively accomplished only by spirit-filled people, therefore the Holy Spirit is indispensable.
3. The Holy Spirit was promised: *Ezekiel 36:27;37:14; Isaiah 44:3; 59:21; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4-8*
4. The Holy Spirit came as was promised: *Acts 2:1-33; 10:43-44; 11:15-18; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:5-25*
5. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is Christ-centered ONLY. *John 7:37-39; 14:26; 16:18-14*
6. The Holy Spirit to believers is a seal, an anointing, a pledge, a helper.
7. For the believer the Holy Spirit:
 - Convicts and reveals Jesus Christ to all people.
 - Regenerates believers to a new life.
 - Baptizes believers into Jesus Christ.
 - Reproduces the character of Jesus Christ in those who submit to Him.
 - Promotes spiritual maturity.
 - Teaches and gives understanding in God's Word.
 - Applies truth to one's experience.

- Gives power to one's prayer life.
 - Gives meaningful worship.
 - Gives capacity, direction, ability and burden for witnessing.
 - Gives ability to use one's gift/s in service.
8. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and all that is within a person becomes available to the Holy Spirit for achieving the purposes of God.
 9. Without the Holy Spirit, no believer has the ability nor motivation to go make disciples as God commands, therefore God has given to each believer the presence of the Holy Spirit.

III. EVERYONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THE METHOD OF MAKING DISCIPLES

1. The human heart (soil) of the believer has to be prepared such as walking by the Holy Spirit, praying for people to go witness, praying for opportunities to witness, praying for courage to share God's Word at the right time, and praying for the ability to witness in a clear, understandable way.
 - No one can give away what he/she does not have and if the believer's life is frustrated, has strife and division in it, he/she cannot expect to be very effective in convincing others to become a believer in Jesus Christ.
2. Believers have the responsibility to share the Gospel message, to speak of the truth of God's Word for no one can be saved without hearing the Gospel message.
3. The harvest is people believing in and receiving Jesus Christ by personal faith after being witnessed to by some believer, therefore those who witness become a part of the process of preparing, sowing, watering and/or reaping.
4. Some steps for making disciples:
 - Consider, take a look at those around you.
 - Become friendly with each of those around you.
 - Focus on those with whom you feel most comfortable with.
 - Meet those around you on their own ground, at their point of need.
 - Be sensitive, listen, watch, identify the most receptive time in the life of each one around you.
 - Pray regularly and specifically, naming each of those around you who need Jesus.
 - Get with another or other Christians/believers who also are wanting to witness to others.
5. Follow Jesus' example of witnessing as He witnessed to the woman at the well. **John 4:3-42**
 - Jesus felt led by the Holy Spirit to go Samaria.
 - Jesus struck up a conversation in a simple manner and a conversation followed in which He ultimately led her to have to make a decision about who He was.
 - The woman went back to town and brought many others to see Jesus for themselves and many of them became believers in Jesus as the woman had become.
6. A summary of Jesus' example of making a disciple:
 - The Holy Spirit was involved and led Jesus to Samaria.
 - Jesus started the conversation at the well, with a simple request.
 - During the conversation He revealed who He was.
 - The woman believed and then went to get others to bring back to see Jesus and many of them believed also.

IV. EVERYONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE THEY ARE TO GIVE

1. The Gospel Message of salvation is God centered is based upon the exceeding riches of His GRACE.
2. Salvation is by grace through faith ALONE in the work of God in Christ ALONE, not by some religious or human works which people do.
3. Grace is a FREE GIFT from God without any cost to any who believe. Salvation in Christ is free, but it is not cheap for it cost God the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus.
4. Salvation, as a work of grace and is received by FAITH or belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ
5. The Gospel Message is: ***1 Corinthians 15:1-11***
 - Jesus Christ died for everyone's sins.
 - Jesus Christ was raised on the third day after being buried in a tomb.
 - All people are lost, separated from God and are in need of God's salvation.
 - No one can be saved by their good works whether religious or moral.
 - God loves the world and has proved it by giving His only Son to die in the place of all sinful people.
 - The Gift of salvation is received by FAITH in this Gospel message.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian/Believer is to go out into his/her world and make disciples, baptize them and then teach them the Word of God so that they, too, may become witnesses.
2. Christians must understand that they are to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit in their witnessing.
3. Christians must understand how they are to witness to others, as everyone is different from each other.
4. Christians must understand the message they are to share with others.
5. No Christian is exempt from the command to "***...GO WITNESS, BAPTIZE AND TEACH...***"
6. So, Christian, how obedient are you in Jesus' command to go, witness, baptize and teach others?