

## If You Want to Follow Jesus – part 4

**Matt. 28:18-20**

**Luke 9:23**—Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life.

--Started last week looking at what a disciple does.

--We saw that a disciple learns, loves, and lives the Word of God.

This week we will see that a disciple makes disciples.

--I said in an earlier sermon on discipleship: disciples make disciples, Christians don't make disciples.

--A Saved person who is not a disciple (not denying themselves, not dying to themselves, not moved in to the Word) is not on Jesus' program and mission, thus does not make disciples.

--A Non-disciple is still just living for themselves and their own agenda.

--Impact-wise, they do little more for the world around them than a lost person does.

--They do not seek first His kingdom and righteousness; they seek their own kingdom.

It's the surrendered life of a disciple that reaches the world, transforms lives, goes the extra mile—Christians didn't reach you, preach to you, hand you a tract; disciples did.

--Disciples were faithful to teach you, encourage you, hold you accountable, serve in ministry and set the example for you, not Christians.

--Disciples give up their incomes, their leisure time, rights and privileges to reach a lost world.

--They are the ones who quit lucrative jobs or settle for less than the best of this life or put themselves in harms way so that others can profit through their sacrifice.

--**You can't make what you ain't!**--disciples make disciples.

### **1. Disciples make disciples, it's a natural outflow of discipleship:**

**Matt. 4:19; II Tim. 2:2; Matt. 28:16-20 – Matt. 26:32**

--The whole process starts with obedience and not with mountain moving faith.

--**If they** wanted to see Jesus, they had to go to Galilee.

--**If we** really want to know who Jesus is and what His plans are and what He's doing, we are going to have to obey Him!

--Do you think He's some sort of cosmic Genie where you rub the lamp and He pops up and says "what is your wish master" – No, it's the other way around, you pop up and say "what is your wish master."

--Obedience is that key and doubts don't disqualify you – Doubt is the struggle to believe—they were having a hard time with the whole resurrection thing--understandably so.

--Sometimes we are devoted and sometimes we doubt; Jesus doesn't rebuke or weed out the doubters—He presses ahead with them.

### **2. Jesus gives them several things to do.**

1. Be convinced of Jesus' full authority – **V. 18** – He's saying this to the obedient even some who doubted but were obedient.

--Jesus has the right and the might to do whatever He decides to.

--**Jn. 3:35**

--Again, discipleship is not Jesus' prominence in a life; it's His preeminence! The proper response to the preeminence of Jesus is to give Him preeminence in our lives.

--Don't call Him king and Lord and not do what He says!

Someone has said, "Imagine Jesus walking up to the first disciples and saying something like this, 'Hey, would you guys mind identifying yourselves with Me in some way? Don't worry. I

don't actually care if you do anything I do or that you change your lifestyle at all. I'm just looking for people who are willing to say they believe in Me and call themselves Christians.'

--The call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is open to everyone, but we don't get to write our own job description. If Jesus is Lord, then He sets the agenda."

2. Be committed to follow Jesus' assignment – Again, He makes this assignment to some who are doubters. No recipe' or formula like 'take two prayers and call me in the morning' for fixing that either.

--Just "in your going" that will be handled and fixed.

--"But I still don't understand everything." It will be explained or it will be alleviated in your going.

"Go" literally means "as you go" – As you go about your daily lives; it's not a call to foreign missions or surrender to be a pastor or an evangelists. God will call you out especially for that if He so wills.

--As you go into whatever life God sets in front of you.

--A question from that: why do you care since you've denied yourself and died to yourself?

--"Make disciples" – Not just decisions, stick with them, teach them, pour into them so that they can become like you.

--"Baptizing them" – Why, if trusting Jesus as Savior is all we need to do to be saved, are we required to be baptized? It is the first step in discipleship.

--You accept Jesus and you are His – that's a personal private decision of the heart where no one can see; baptism is the public expression of that.

--The first step in following Jesus is acknowledging Him publicly—Jesus is on the inside, now tell the world on the outside.

--If follows that order: accept Jesus first on the inside, tell the world secondly on the outside.

"Teaching them to observe whatever I have commanded" – these aren't suggestions He's giving for your best life now—they are commandments – discipleship and making disciples are commandments for Jesus' followers.

--"and, lo" "and surely" "and truly" "and behold" – Why does He say that? Why place such emphasis here? He's saying, "Pay close attention to this— I go with you wherever you go."

--We don't just go for Him, we go with Him –

**Matt. 16:18** "Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it" You'll never know if Jesus has the power to help you until you really need His help. You'll never know if Jesus is with you until you decide to go somewhere in His name."

--Bookends of His commandment -- "I am with you always" – "All authority has been Given to Me" – the book ends of the great commission. **sovereign power – eternal presence.**

Have you ever audited a class? Ever heard of that? – Its where you go to class to get information but you are not required to do the work. A lot of people want to audit discipleship.