



Why Make Disciples? Matthew 28.16-20

I remember being a boy sitting inside the Oakland Colosseum watching Billy Graham call people to faith in Jesus. Have you ever been to an evangelistic “crusade” (the old term) or watch one on TV? What was the overall message that came through? Most evangelistic meetings end with the biblical call to repent and believe. But as Billy Graham was once challenged, “What’s supposed to happen next?” That’s the part that has everything to do with our question, *Why the Church?*

Pastor Eric

Describe what you typically think of when you hear that someone “became a Christian.” What usually crosses your mind when you hear the term, “disciple?”

Read Matthew 28.16-20. Summarize the setting of these verses. Next, write out a paraphrase of what Jesus tells his remaining disciples. Why does Jesus tell the eleven that he has authority to say what he says?

Noting that there is only one actual command here (“make disciples”), how do you think that Jesus’ instructions to go, baptizing and teaching, fit in? What do you think the significance of baptism is? Since baptism is a rite of initiation, how does that add to your understanding?

What do you imagine Jesus is trying to tell his disciples when he instructs them to go about teaching? What is it that they are to teach? Do you think this teaching is limited to head knowledge, or is there more to teaching than that? Now that you’ve thought more about *baptizing* and *teaching*, how do you think they express what it means to make disciples?

Read Luke 14.25-33. Since the phrase, to “hate,” was a rabbi’s hyperbolic way of referring to choosing one thing over another, what is Jesus getting at here? What does this say about serious discipleship?

“To disciple a person is to bring him [or her] into the relation of a pupil to a teacher” (Don Carson). Where do you think the church sometimes falls short in disciple making? How could a church practically bring someone into the relation of a pupil to our teacher, Jesus? How do we at Community Covenant disciple people? How could we do that better?

To make disciples requires that we personally prioritize discipleship. In what ways have you arranged your life so that you can prioritize being a pupil of Jesus? What other steps might you take to make discipleship a priority?