

# SERMON NOTES

Grow: Make Disciples  
Matthew 4:18-22; 28:16-20

**Key thought:** A church's ministry is to be marked by the calling and multiplying of disciples.

**Make it personal:** Jesus expects and commands you to make disciples

The biblical foundation for making disciples is:

- Modeled in the ministry of Jesus (*Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 3:13-19*)
- Mandated by the command of Jesus (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

## STRENGTHEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ...

### A. God's mandate – “make disciples of all nations”

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. *Luke 6:40*

*Mathetes* is the Greek word which has been translated as “disciple.” *Mathetes* is used to “indicate total attachment to someone in discipleship.” Jesus referred to his followers as His disciples. The term disciple marked the unique relationship which existed between Jesus and those that followed Him as their teacher and master. Although the term disciple is used quite frequently in the gospels and the book of Acts, it is not found in any of the epistles.

Discipleship is the investment of one's time and energy into the life of another individual or group of individuals so that they may become mature, reproducing members of the body of Christ.

Discipleship begins at the point when one responds to the *euangelizo* (announcement of glad tidings, the gospel), and has as its aim to mature the new convert to becoming one who announces the glad tidings of Christ to others. There is no discipleship without evangelism; and evangelism is incomplete without proper biblical follow-up. The biblical mandate from our Lord is to “Go therefore and make disciples ...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

### B. God's method – The Great Commission

The Great Commission (making disciples) involves three participles: we are to go, we are to baptize, we are to teach. Literally, “having gone, make disciples.”

1. Going – you are sent, not casually but intentionally (*Acts 1:8*)

# SERMON NOTES

Grow: Make Disciples  
Matthew 4:18-22; 28:16-20

## 2. Baptizing - evangelism (*Romans 10:14-15*)

The word evangelism comes from the Greek word *euangelizo*. The verbal form of *euangelizo* in the New Testament means the announcement of the glad tidings concerning the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.<sup>[1]</sup> Included in the announcement of the glad tidings is an invitation to receive the glad tidings and place one's faith in Christ for salvation. Evangelism is the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ with an invitation to respond to that good news for the purpose of becoming a follower of Jesus.

"In the context of the Great Commission, baptism is synonymous with salvation, which is synonymous with becoming a disciple. As already emphasized, discipleship is Christian life, not an optional, second level of it."<sup>[2]</sup>

## 3. Teaching – to obey

The Christian life is not merely being well informed, it is about being transformed. Every person who repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is a new creature in Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:17*) and is being shaped into the image of God's Son. Our love for Christ compels obedience to Christ (*John 14:15*).

## ENCOURAGE YOU TO LET HIS...

- A. Power become your power (*Philippians 4:13; Romans 1:16*)
- B. Purpose become your purpose (*Luke 19:10*)
- C. Passion become your passion (*Romans 5:8*)
- D. Priorities become your priorities (*Matthew 6:33*)
- E. Presence become very precious (*Philippians 3:8-10*)

<sup>[1]</sup> W. E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1981), 168.

<sup>[2]</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 28:19). Chicago: Moody Press.