

The Command to Make Disciples

Multiply - Week 2

DAY 1

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1. These words were spoken *after* Jesus was raised back to life! If you had been a disciple, seeing Jesus face-to-face after His terrible crucifixion, what would you have felt? Thought?
2. These words were essentially His "last will and testament" before returning to heaven. In that context, how would His words have struck you?
3. What words would you have thought He "should have said" just before His departure?
4. What kinds of change would these words have meant for the disciples?
5. What kinds of change do these words mean for you?
6. How closely do His last words parallel your life? Are you a "million miles away?" Is this something to which you aspire, but just need help?
7. Finish with prayer, asking God to make these words a greater focus in your life.

DAY 2

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1. These were Jesus' marching order to ordinary followers of His, His disciples. They were ordinary men. How does it strike you personally, that these marching orders are for you as well?

2. He starts out with, "Go." The Greek verb should be translated, "As you are going..." The idea is that in your "normal" life, look for ways to do what follows. "As you are going ... at work; at school; in your neighborhood; at your kid's softball practice," etc.

Each day is pregnant with purpose! You exist to make a difference in your everyday life. How does that strike you? What thoughts do you have?

3. *"As you are going... make disciples..."*

As you relate to people which of the following could you do with some people in your life?

- Look for ways to love them like Jesus would,
- Be an encouragement to them,
- Pray for them, especially when you know they are going through a tough time,
- Take an interest in their everyday life,
- Find a way to serve them
- Give them a small gift

4. *"...baptizing them ..."*

- a. Have you been baptized *after* becoming a disciple?
- b. When?
- c. If not, what's holding you back?

DAY 3

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1. There is a sense in which we each bear responsibility for making disciples. There is another sense in which this is a "team game." As members of the church we encourage each other on in this endeavor. Read the next passage...

Ephesians 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

2. In this passage, how did Paul see the "average Joe" in the church?

3. What was the role of the "professional clergy-type?"

4. Paul consider you a "minister!" How does that strike you?

5. What excuses run through your mind when you think of yourself as a minister?

6. What can you do to overcome some of these excuses?

DAY 4

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1. "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."-some ancient Chinese guy

2. Who are some people in your life that you think God may have put there? Make a list, below.

3. One woman was asked how someone led her to the Lord. She said, "My Christian friend built a bridge of friendship and care, and Jesus walked across the bridge for me." That's pretty astute!

Pick one or two people in your list above. This week, what would be something you could do or say that would help build a bridge of friendship or care?

4. Pray for the people and ideas in question #3.

5. E-mail or text a Christian friend. Tell them what you wrote down. Ask them to pray for you and for your friend, by name.

6. Commit yourself to God in this endeavor. Ask Him to open a door of opportunity and to open the heart(s) of your friend(s).

DAY 5

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1. As we close this week, I hope you're at least taking some baby steps toward people on your list. Were you able to do anything this week?

2. The weekend is upon us! Is there something that comes to mind, in contacting someone on your list?

3. Do any of the following activities of care resonate with you?

E-mail a friend.

Thank someone at work for their positive attitude.

Bring coffee to someone who like coffee. Yes! I'm biased on this one! AND the next one as well...

Bring a plate of chocolate chip cookies to a neighbor.

Cut some flowers from your yard. Take them to work and give them to someone.

Ask someone how a struggle they're in is going.

Pray for them, out loud.

Buy a few \$5 gift cards from your local coffee place. Hand out a few of them.

4. As you step out, your main attitude should be centered around:

Care.

People are important

The person you're talking to matters to you.

5. Pray for the folks on your list.