

Series: To Know Him and To Make Him Known
Title: To Make Him Known – Discipleship
Text: Matthew 28:18-20
Subject: Five Purposes 2007, Discipleship
Purpose: To focus the church on being disciples of Jesus.
Big Idea: Discipleship is not optional for Christians.
Date: 2-11-07 AMW
Place: NWCC

Introduction:

A. When we study the Bible to understand our purpose, we will always end up with two foundational commands from Jesus.

1. The Royal Law – [Mark 12:28-31](#)
2. The Great Commission – [Matthew 28:18-20](#)

B. These two commands can be broken down into five purposes.

1. Purpose #1 – Worship.

[Mark 12:30](#) (NIV)

³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

- a. To Know Him is to love Him.
- b. To love Him is to worship Him.

2. Purpose #2 – Ministry.

[Mark 12:31](#) (NIV)

The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

- a. To Make Him Known is to love and serve others.
- b. We all have gifts, talents, and resources.
- c. Christ expects us to use them to bless and build up others.

3. Purpose #3 – Evangelism

[Matthew 28:18-20](#) (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

- a. To Make Him Known is to introduce others to Jesus.
- b. No one can get to heaven without knowing Him.

4. Purpose #4 – Fellowship

Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

- a. When we make Jesus known we bring people into fellowship with Jesus.
- b. When they are in fellowship with Jesus they are also in fellowship with us.
- c. We belong to Him and to each other.

5. Purpose #5 – Discipleship

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

C. Today we are going to look at the fifth purpose of the church: Discipleship.

I. Discipleship is not optional for a Christian.

A. To become a Christian is by definition to become a disciple of Jesus.

1. It is not just a matter of labeling oneself with a religion.
2. It is not just a matter of becoming a church member.

B. A disciple is a person who is willing to follow Jesus.

1. It has often been said that a disciple is a student, and that is true, but a disciple is much more than a student.
2. But student in the 1st century Jewish context meant something much different than it does today.

C. Being a disciple of Jesus is not just a matter of information, but the surrender of life to His Lordship.

1. A student wasn't someone who went to a classroom for an hour a day or three hours a week to hear lectures, etc.
2. A disciple was one who pretty much lived with his rabbi or teacher 24/7.
3. He followed him wherever he went, listening, memorizing, learning, observing.
4. His passion was not just to master a subject but to become what the teacher was.
5. The NT Greek word for disciple is μαθητής.

6. The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament says this about it:

μαθητής always implies the existence of a personal attachment which shapes the whole life of the one described as μαθητής, and which in its particularity leaves no doubt as to who is deploying the formative power.¹

The control of the μαθηταί by the man to whom they have committed themselves extends in the NT to the inner life.... In the NT we do not find any instances where μαθητής is used without this implication of supremely personal union.

7. We can understand how this could be true when Jesus and the disciples lived on the earth but how is this kind of relationship possible for us now?

II. A disciple of Jesus has His Spirit living in us.

Romans 8:9 (NIV)

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

A. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ living in us.

1. He does much more than just teach us.
2. He gives us the opportunity to become friends and followers of Jesus whereby He imparts His own heart and mind to us.
3. Because His Spirit lives in us, we live with Him, walk with Him, listen, learn, memorize, observe.
4. We have the opportunity to become all that He is.
 - a. Not that we can ever become deity.
 - b. But that His life, character, values, integrity, sinless nature is lived out in us.

B. Being a Christian is more than just a set of religious tenants of faith.

1. Information is important and correct doctrine is necessary.
2. Commitment and sacrifice for the cause is required.
3. To be a disciple of Jesus gives us great joy, peace and fulfillment, but on this earth it also may very well include suffering.
4. It is not easy to make disciples and when we are involved in that work we will find ourselves having to sacrifice and at times suffer.
5. That is what Jesus meant when He said:

¹Theological dictionary of the New Testament. 1964-c1976. Vols. 5-9 edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 compiled by Ronald Pitkin. (G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley & G. Friedrich, Ed.) (Vol. 4, Page 441). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
NT New Testament.

Luke 14:27 (NIV)

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 (NIV)

In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

III. It is the life of Christ within us that influences the world around us.

Luke 14:34-35 (NIV)

"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out..."

1. You and I cannot take information about Christ, the Gospel, the Word of God, and effectively apply it to bring about change in our lives or the lives of others.
2. We do not have the power to do so.
3. Oswald Chambers, in his devotional book, *My Utmost for His Highest* writes for November 9:

The Christian worker has to be a sacred "go-between." He must be so closely identified with his Lord and the reality of His redemption that Christ can continually bring His creating life through him. I am not referring to the strength of one individual's personality being superimposed on another, but the real presence of Christ coming through every aspect of the worker's life. When we preach the historical facts of the life and death of Our Lord as they are conveyed in the New Testament, our words are made sacred. God uses these words, on the basis of His redemption to create something in those who listen which otherwise could never have been created. If we simply preach the effects of Redemption in the human life instead of the revealed, Divine truth regarding Jesus Himself, the result is not new birth in those who listen. The result is a refined religious lifestyle, and the Spirit of God cannot witness to it because such preaching is in a realm other than His. We must make sure that we are living in such harmony with God that as we proclaim His truth He can create in others those things which He alone can do.

When we say, "What a wonderful personality, what a fascinating person, what a wonderful insight!" then what opportunity does the Gospel of God have through all of that? It cannot get through, because the attraction is to the messenger and not the message. If a person attracts through his personality, that becomes his appeal. If, however, he is identified with the Lord Himself, then the appeal becomes what Jesus Christ can do. The danger is to glory in men, yet Jesus says we are to lift up only *Him*.²

C. To walk in discipleship means we seek the life of Christ to be created in us.

1. The discipline of Bible Study is necessary.
2. The discipline of prayer is necessary.
3. The discipline of fellowship is necessary.
4. The discipline of ministry is necessary.
5. But beyond all of that, a true disciple learns to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ) within.

²Chambers, O. (1993, c1935). *My utmost for his highest : Selections for the year (November 9)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers.

Conclusion:

Luke 14:35 (NIV)

..."He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

A. The church – we Christians have a purpose to fulfill.

1. The most important thing we can do is to worship God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
2. The second most important thing we can do is to serve the needs and lives of those around us out of a heart of love for God and for God.
3. The third most important thing we can do is to help others come to Jesus to have their sins forgiven and become His follower.
4. The fourth most important thing we can do is to stay connected and participate in the work and life of the church.
5. Purpose #5 is Discipleship – that we ourselves be always maturing and growing as followers of Jesus.

B. Are you a disciple of Jesus?

1. Would you become one today?
2. In Him is purpose and meaning.
3. In Him we become more than we could ever be without Him
4. In Him we have hope and the assurance of everlasting life free of the troubles of this world.