August 27, 2017 a.m.

MAKE DISCIPLES

Reading: **Matt. 28:16-20**

**Matt. 28:19**

* KJV – *teach all nations*, YLT – *disciple all the nations*
* How do you make a disciple? What does it mean to be a disciple?
* *matheteuo* - to become a pupil; transitively, to disciple, i.e. enrol as scholar:--be disciple, instruct, teach.” (Strong’s)
* A *disciple (mathetes)* by definition is “a learner.” (Strong’s) {*manthano* – learn}
* This word is used over 250 times in the Gospels and Acts.
* Does the Lord want us to see ourselves as disciples?
* A disciple is an adherent of the doctrines/teachings of another.

**We make disciples by leading others to the Master/Teacher.**

* We make disciples by teaching them. (**John 6:45**)
* We teach and *learn* (*manthano)* the doctrine/teaching of Christ. (**Romans 16:17**)
* Making disciples begins with convincing others that Jesus is the Christ.
* We are not trying to make church members, but rather followers of Jesus.
* We want folks to be converted to Christ, not to His people (the church).
* Disciples will want to be church members. (obligation and benefits – as Jesus taught)
* “With our American tendency toward individualism, we must also remember that it (discipleship, LW) cannot be completed alone. An individualistic, do-it-yourself faith or ‘solo Christianity’ is guaranteed to fail. That is why we must be an actively engaged member of a congregation of God’s people, where we have Christ-centered friends to walk with us and help us grow as disciples. This need has given rise to the word discipling, which ‘implies the responsibility of disciples helping one another to grow as disciples.’”[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Do we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
* Are we going to really listen to Him, *learn (manthano)* of Him? (**Matt. 11:29**)
* A disciple can be called a Christian. (**Acts 11:26**)
* This is a divine call – a name from heaven/God.
* It connects the disciple with the master – Jesus the Christ.

**It is a commitment like no other.**

* We love Jesus more than any other personal relationship we can have. (**Luke 14:26-33**)
* We love Him more than anything in this world.
* How many refuse to leave the religion of their fathers to follow the Lord?
* We love Him more than life itself. (**Matt. 16:24**)
* We must abide in His word. (**John 8:31**)
* Just when we think we are following Him, He challenges us to do better. (**Matt. 8:21**)
* Not all disciples will follow Jesus all the way. (**John 6:60-66**)

**We are always in the process of learning.**

* We are in the process of becoming like our Teacher. (**Matt. 10:25; Luke 6:40**)
* All of us are works in progress, or at least we should be.
* We are not simply learning to know things, even good things, but we learn so we can do.
* Some are always learning but not able to come to the knowledge of the truth (**2 Tim. 3:7**) because they have no intention of obeying the truth.
* Disciples ask questions. (**John 9:2; Matt. 24:3**)
* Sometimes good and sometimes bad.
* There is room for growth. (**Matt. 19:10, 13**)
* We grow in our understanding. (**John 12:16**)
* *“Go and learn (manthano) what this means….”* (**Matt. 9:13**)
* Paul *learned* to be content. (**Phil. 4:11**)
* *“And let our people also learn to maintain good works….”* (**Titus 3:14**)
* *“…that all may learn and all may be encouraged.”* (**1 Cor. 14:31**)
* It takes time and there will be challenges along the way.
* It is the work of a lifetime and we must patiently endure.
* We have a significant adversary who is doing all he can to keep us from becoming disciples in the first place or to putting an end to the learning process. (the cares of this world – anything to distract us)
* Sometimes our souls/spirits need to be strengthened. (**Acts 14:22**; **18:23**)

Are you a disciple of Jesus? Are you learning of Him? Are you following His word?

1. http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Learning\_to\_Make\_Disciples\_of\_Jesus\_page2 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)