

## “LIVING AS JESUS INTENDED – DISCIPLESHIP”

### **INTRO:**

*Discipleship is not an elective thing, but an essential thing. (not a proposition, not a recommendation, but a commission from our leader – “Great Commission” ...living as He intended.)*

**Matt. 28:18-20** (5 needs to fulfill His work: 18 –His Authority... 19 – Direction...Go into all the world... 19 Purpose – make disciples...19 – Plan – teaching, identifying...20 – Promise presence...I am with you)

*\*\* Discipleship is not just another task to do ... it is the underlying purpose/ plan of all we do.*

- Great commission is a “final word” of a 3 year journey ...Back track: How we got to this point (Mt. 28)

*We want to learn lessons in making disciples by looking at how Jesus did it, follow His footsteps. 3 keys to discipleship: 1) keep it **BIBLICAL**, 2) make it **RELATIONAL**, 3) do it **MISSIONAL***

### **I. CHOOSING HIS DISCIPLES:**

*\*How did this happen?*

#### **1) He called them personally.**

**Matthew 4:18-22**

**John 1:43-49**

- He found them right where they were at & invited them on a journey with Him.

*\*Before ministry happened He called them to His side...follow ME! Walk with ME! Learn from ME!*

= Disciple = “a learner; pupil” (discipline)

It was almost overnight that crowds began to follow Jesus (miracles, preaching, healings, teaching)

**Matthew 9:35** *Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

**Matthew 7:28-29** *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

- Something about Jesus that was magnetic (not looks, not clothes, not background)...inwardly (holy, humble...power in words & touch). They didn't know it at the time, but they were following & interacting with God Almighty.

- Of the multitude, Jesus chooses 12 men to be disciples:

**Mark 3:13-19**

- Their purpose was to 1) be with Him (relational/ Biblical); 2) be used by Him (missional)

*\*How did He do this? What would happen in that time WITH Him?*

### **II. MAKING HIS DISCIPLES:**

#### **A. BIBLICAL:**

- Jesus (Word of God) unfolded Himself to these men.

- Revealed to them the God's heart (John 3:16).... Revealed to them God's plan of salvation (Matt. 16:21 – suffering Messiah) (Jn. 6:39 – “work of God to believe in the One He sent”)

- Taught them about Godly living: giving, fasting, religious duty, heart issues (Matt. 5-7 Sermon on Mount); prayer (Luke 11 – teach us to pray); Forgiving one another (parables).

o Jesus used the OT scriptures (God's Word) to train up His followers.

- Unfolded to them the purpose of the Law and scriptures – pointing to Himself.

**John 5:39** *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

• *All of the Bible has one goal.... Point to Jesus....discipleship points to Jesus... He is the leader; we are His followers.*

- Taught them about the end, prophecy, future plan of God (Matt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21)

- Taught them about what it means to be His disciple:

## Matthew 16:24-28

- Costly, but rewarding/ men would hate you & persecute you, yet some will hear & love you for helping them gain eternal life.

\*\*Doctrine/ Devotion go hand-in-hand. Can't have one without the other ...Doctrine alone = Pharisee/ Devotion alone = falsity (wrong Jesus)

\*\* To truly make disciples we **cannot** neglect the Bible...guideline for holiness, for knowing God... all the other books must take us back to this foundation...

*Matt. 28:20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."*

- *The disciples were to give away what they had received from Him...always the goal...pass it on...*

\* \*Jesus shows us that if we are to make disciples of Him then we must keep it Biblical.

### B. RELATIONAL:

- God is a relational God... He didn't yell from a distance/ didn't send an alien...Came Himself – Jesus came to bring us into relationship with God (intimacy) and restore relationships with others.

\*\*Relationship is of greater value to Him than anything!

- Discipleship is meant to be relationship oriented:

**Mark 3:13-14** *And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,*

- They were called to be WITH Him. (Meta = to accompany) For 3 years they would walk, talk, share, eat, build relationship...hanging with Jesus!

*\*Why was it important for them to be with Jesus? Why not just "here you go, see you next yr. for a check up"?*

### In relationship comes revelation:

#### 1) Jesus revealed the Father's heart

### **John 14:6-10**

- In looking at Jesus I find everything I need to know about the Father. (Heb. 1 – “expressed image of His person”)

- Discipleship is meant to be a “getting-to-know-God” experience.

2) They needed to see how Jesus interacted with people: (example for them to follow...discipleship is not just instruction by mouth, but an imitation of Jesus by life to others) Learn lessons:

- **Merciful** (*touches a leper... calls out the Blind Bartemaeus that everyone overlooked*)

- **Compassion:** (*multitudes: "Sheep without a shepherd"/ Individuals found a friend in Him – fall at His feet weeping because of sinfulness*)

- **Grace:** *woman caught in sin (Jn.8) – new life; yet HARD to those hardened with pride (Pharisees)*

- **Love:** *rulers (Jairus; Centurion) found help, yet children (least) welcomed & blessed*

- *saw that Jesus wept @ friend's death (Lazarus); wept @ His city's sin hardened heart (Jerusalem).*

- *see Him rejoice @ disciples "getting it" (Luke 10:21); lame walked, blind saw, deaf heard – entered into their joys too! (Jesus is not passive, but passionate about His work!)*

\* Jesus shared with them His life - relational (traveled to wedding, feasts, funerals)...He used life lessons to impart spiritual truths –events of the day. (Luke 24 – Emmaues Rd. “What are you talking about?...”)

\*\*\*Discipleship is not just book knowledge (imparting facts/ truth)...discipleship is sharing life lessons (applicational)

- Discipleship is relational... even Jesus' final words were relational (Mt. 28 – “I am with you always...”)

\* If we are to make disciples we must make it relational...Jesus did!

### **C. MISSIONAL:**

- Discipleship: impart knowledge (Biblical instruction), example character (relational living), include in ministry & sending on to duplicate.
- Come alongside to 1) watch 2) to help 3) to lead.
- Jesus showed us that **discipleship is involvement in serving Him:**

#### **John 6:5-14**

- why did He include them in the ministry? Connection: It's all God! (not them)
- Discipleship includes others in the ministry – train them up to serve rightly.
- 2 separate occasions Jesus sent them out alone to do the ministry: (prepare His way)

#### **Luke 9:1-6; 10:1,17,21,23-24**

- o **Discipleship has risk:** new guy may fail!
- o Jesus allowed them to fail in ministry @ times to teach them a greater lesson (Mt. 17 – demon possessed man/ Mk. 4 – storms @ sea “don't you care?"/ Peter's downfall – I will never deny you...garden asleep, with the guards he denies 3 times (Luke 22:61-62 “Jesus looked at Peter when rooster crowed, wept bitterly”... Peter never forget that time – humility going forward).
- Jesus included them in His ministry: (lost, hurting, Samaritans)...invested in them knowing the return was eternal!

#### **Matt. 28 -**

- Jesus spent 40 days after His resurrection working with His disciples: revealing Himself, teaching them, eating with them, convincing them of God's plan, restoring Peter – putting in place hearts ready to be used mightily for Him...spirit falls (Acts 1:8) sent out with power turning the world upside down for Jesus.... One at a time!

**BIBLICAL** – keep Jesus @ center & God's Word, **RELATIONAL** – shared their lives, testimonies, personal work of God, **MISSIONAL** – trained up & sent out.