

Disciple Making Jesus Way Serving Others

Matthew 10:7–15

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Rev Joe Sanders

First Baptist Church Coshocton, Ohio

Have you heard the expression sheep among wolves? That came from Jesus. He said it to twelve of His disciples as they were about to depart to make more disciples. Sheep among wolves would tell us that the wolves had a good dinner. I wouldn't want to be a sheep. I wouldn't want to be thrown into the wilderness without a gun, a crossbow, or a good shepherd.

I often times put myself into a scripture passage and ask what would I do? Many times I come up short on faith and action. I try to think about alternative ways for me to respond. How about you?

Jesus was in the process of fulfilling the second part of His mission: making disciples who make disciples. The first and foremost part of His mission was to live, die on the cross, and rise from the dead. In so doing He saved all who believe in Him from their sins and eternity in hell. Jesus called this the Kingdom of God. He said it was near. It is when a person gives God their heart, mind, soul, and body. Jesus wanted to every generation all around the world to be saved. So, He made disciples who made disciples. He gave them a command.

Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Matthew 10:7 (NLT)

Jesus way of making disciples is hands on. These men were new to the faith and He put them to work right away. Jesus knew that for His disciples to be disciple makers that they needed to go to work. They had been following Him around. They heard His message on the mount about the Kingdom of God. They were on the boat when He calmed the sea. They had seen diseases healed. They were present when a young girl was brought back to life. The words He spoke were amazing as He revealed the truth about God and faith in Him. They saw the crowds who were in need of workers to help them find faith.

His disciples were in Jesus opinion ready to go and serve in the Kingdom of God. They believed in the authority of Jesus that they could do what He told them to do.

As disciples we need to be doing what Jesus has commanded for us to do. The time for theory and information will always be necessary, but we know more than enough. The hands on part of our ministry has arrived. Disciples who make disciples train by going and making disciples. Faith and action working side by side.

Their was message was the same as His, God's Kingdom is near. Their ministry was the same as His, healing, raising the dead, and casting out demons. They were to proclaim faith as the way to God. They were to serve the needs of the most afflicted people.

Through faith in Jesus they went to the nearby towns and villages. In these communities sick people were healed by faith. In these villages leprosy was removed by faith. In the towns demons were cast out by faith. I have not read if they raised dead, but I believe their message brought spiritual life to those who listened.

The people were desperate to see the power of God. In faith they witnessed first hand God's Kingdom coming near. The men, women, and children were eager to hear the truth. By faith they believed God's Kingdom was coming upon them.

Generation after generation has been anxiously waiting for God to enter their lives. They have been looking and longing for the truth to be spoken. We have the same mandate from Jesus to proclaim the coming of His Kingdom. We have the same mandate to serve, to minister to the least and the most afflicted. They are not far away. They live in our neighborhoods. They are at our places of work.

Regardless of how we encounter those in need we can begin making them into disciples of Jesus. This means by faith we go and share the message of Jesus.

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! Matthew 10:8 (NLT)

Most Christians have a blockage in the mind and in the heart. The blockage in your mind is holding onto bad thoughts. We read it on the page and say we can't cast out a demon. We tell ourselves we can't cure any disease or heal any illness. We know we can't raise the dead.

There's the blockage. It's a giant wall that seems insurmountable. It blocks our view of what faith tells us. It blocks our brain from believing what Jesus has told us. Our brain tells us that we can't heal the sick, so we believe our brain. Our brain says we can't cure skin diseases, so we believe our brain. Our brain says we can't cast out demons, so we believe our brain. Our brain says we can't raise the dead, so we believe our brain.

This is reason and rational thinking blocking faith and the authority of Jesus. I'm not saying we should stop thinking. But I am saying we should stop over thinking, over rationalizing the words of Jesus, and step out in faith.

Faith is not an emotion. This isn't I feel like I can heal somebody, that's ridiculous. Jesus is saying to us trust Him. Believe the blockage in your head or believe Jesus. The blockage in your heart is a lost concern for another's soul. That's a harsh thing to say, that we've lost our concern for another person's eternal existence.

Admit it, there are some people that we can't see how they can be saved, disciplined, or healed. So much of what we see and experience is beyond our control. The world and all of it's problems are much too big for us. Illness, demon possession, death are beyond our authority and power to overcome.

So, we've turned off our heart, we've lost our compassion for certain situations and even people. That's a terrible thing to say. But our compassion gets blocked when we've been hurt by others. Our compassion loses it's motivation when we haven't seen answers to our prayers. So, instead of trusting Jesus' authority and power we find the compassion switch and turn it down. Then we aren't responsible for other people. If we don't have compassion for someone's pain and hardship we can walk away.

Jesus had compassion for every person He healed of an affliction. He was compassionate for those possessed by demons. His compassion reached new extremes when death came sooner than He

wanted. He raised the little girl, He brought back to life the widow's son, He raised Lazarus from the dead.

You can claim the truth in our mind and in our heart that Jesus saves and you're an example. If Jesus can save you from the power of sin, then why can't He save anyone else? Since you have been given the grace of God day after day, why can't the demon possessed receive His grace? Seeing as you live under the mercy of God, what stops a cancer patient from living under God's mercy? Given that you are alive right now, why can't Jesus work through you to raise the died?

All of this sounds irrational and illogical. All of it is beyond our control. Consequently, as a disciple of Jesus claim His authority. Therefore, as a disciple maker of Jesus claim His power.

Don't take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. Don't carry a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed. Matthew 10:9-10 (NLT)

When we are making disciples we must rely only on Jesus. It hits home for us when Jesus says we can't take anything with us. Don't go to the bank and get some extra cash just in case, go proclaim God's Kingdom is near. Don't go home for a change of clothes, go proclaim God's Kingdom is near. Don't go buy a new pair of good walking shoes, go proclaim God's Kingdom is near.

Jesus' commands in these verses have a new sense of urgency, don't they? His expectation is that you will go and you will go now. No waiting, no excuses, just get on your feet and go.

I don't think I would have been one of the twelve Jesus chose for this mission. Even considering that He chose Judas, who betrayed Him. I'm afraid I would have said, Can I think about this for a day or two? Can I go home and talk to my wife? I can't go without getting something to eat first.

Hundreds of people, maybe thousands were following Jesus at this time. Out of that group He picked twelve individuals to go and proclaim the Kingdom of God is near. Eleven of the twelve believed Jesus, trusted Jesus, and become disciple makers. They changed the world.

It's not about us it's only about Jesus. When we started this series about disciple making it was clear that for Jesus it was all about God's Kingdom. Anything and everything was secondary. Nothing mattered more than declaring that God's Kingdom was near, salvation was close at hand. By faith, through His life, death, and resurrection God's Kingdom entered the hearts and minds of individuals.

Last week I gave you three verses that everyone needs to have in their life, do you remember?

John 3:16 (NLT) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

It was about Jesus being willing to give His life for ours.

Matthew 22:37–38 (NLT) 7Jesus replied, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

It's not about us but about loving God with every fiber of your being. Loving God with what's in you brain. Loving God with what's in you heart. Loving God with what's in you soul.

Matthew 22:39 (NLT) A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

It's not about us but about our willingness to set aside our desires and our wants to love others.

Loving Jesus only is the difference between Christians and sinners. The more we are willing to trust Jesus with money, clothing, and family the more we find Jesus providing for us. Jesus may have provided for you to be a teacher, a factory worker, an accountant, a medical provider, an administrative assistant so that you could go and make disciples. Have you ever thought of it that way?

Jesus may have given that house you live in, the car you drive, the food on your table, and the clothes on your back so that you could go and make disciples. Have you ever thought of it that way? As hard as you work you haven't earned anything. These things are the blessings of God so we can go and make disciples.

Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. When you enter the home, give it your blessing. Matthew 10:11–12 (NLT)

Let's do this together: go and make disciples. When you walk out that door this morning you are a Christian. You can choose to give freely as you have been given. You can walk out that door as a disciple maker. It starts by knowing who you are. You are saved from your sin. You are redeemed from the punishment of your sin. You are delivered to a new life in Jesus Christ. You have been given the authority and power of Jesus Christ. You are a disciple maker.

Disciple makers go and make disciples by looking for people. You are looking for people who are ready to be discipled. Walk out the door and don't think about lunch or where you'll go to eat. Don't think about taking a nap or watching TV. Don't think about the chores you need to do today. Sunday doesn't have to just be Laundry Day.

Walk out the door thinking and looking for people who need Jesus. Some of them are ready to be discipled. Some of them might already be Christians, but they aren't growing in their faith. No matter where you are in your faith you can bring someone along with you. Some of the people you know who need Jesus may not know Jesus. They may still be lost in their sin facing an eternity of punishment for their lack of faith in God. In there is someone who is ready to be discipled. Consider their lives and their needs. You have the authority and the power to minister to those needs and to bless them.

What choice will you make today? Will you see yourself as the person saved and has been preparing for today? Or will your brain and heart blockages rule your day? When you choose to be a disciple maker God will provide you with everything that you need.

When you choose to be a disciple maker ever stumbling block will be overcome. When you choose to be a disciple maker you will have an impact on the lives the people around you. Let's do this together: Let's go and make disciples.