

The Real Reason We Are Here

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 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,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What defines a win for us as a church?

The win for Jesus is discipleship!

I. What is the task that Jesus gave us?

All of us are called to make disciples that can make disciples.

1. He gives us His power and authority!

Authority is the right to do something; power is the ability to do it.

2. He promises us his presence!

Our success is not based upon how much money we have or how nice of a facility we have, but Gods power and presence in our lives!

Discipleship is not a program, but a relational process as we live life!

II. How Do we Obey Jesus' Command?

Jn. 20:21 (ESV) - Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

We obey his command by living as messengers sent with a message...

But the goal is not to make converts, it is to make disciples!

Jesus did lots of good during his three years, but his focus was to equip His disciples!

John 17:4 (ESV) - I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

He was talking about teaching and demonstrating His commands to His disciples...

And preparing them for their future as disciple makers who would teach others His commands!

The task was and is to make disciples who can make disciples!

Disciples are messengers who carry the message!

Rom. 10:14 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

III. There are No Spectators on God's Team!

Jesus created the church!

The church is described as a family, a marriage, and a body.

Church is meant to be made up of individuals who are engaged and active, not just attending.

Discipleship cannot happen without a local church!

What gifts and abilities do you have to help others be like Jesus?

Do you see yourself as a spectator or team member?

I read a statistic recently that said most people don't volunteer because they are not asked or do not know the need.

IV. Looking at a Reproducible Process

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,
2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

A disciple is someone who follows Christ, is being changed by Christ and is committed to the mission of Christ.

If making disciples is the central task God has given to each of us, all of us must ask ourselves, 'what does this mean for me?'

1. Jesus Modeled Winning Disciples!

Jesus reached out to the spiritually dead...

He shared with them because he cared about them.

2. Jesus Modeled Training Disciples!

It is easy to be spiritual all alone!

But most of our shaping comes as we rub shoulders with others!

Everybody is likeable until you get to know them!

The Church is an organism, not an organization!

All of us are in a process of Christ being formed in us!

It is a necessary part of the growth process to serve in the kingdom and in the church family!

As children become young adults, they become less self centered and begin to care more about the needs of others!

Many don't have the habit of serving and as a result, are stunted in their spiritual growth!

Spiritual infants need to focus on new truths and new habits to grow!

Spiritual children need to be connected to spiritual family to grow!

Spiritual young adults need to engage in serving, find their place and their purpose in the body...

And as they mature they need to be released or sent to make disciples of others!

3. Jesus Modeled Sending Disciples!

As disciples grow, they become more and more concerned about the spiritual lives of others!

Spiritual parents are able to help others and release them to become disciple makers!

Do I need to be discipled?

Am I committed to making disciples?

Who has God placed in my life that I can share with?

How can I get onto the field to help make disciples?