



Bible Study

Acts 16

International Worship Center



AND MAKE
DISCIPLES



Acts 16:1-5

- **16** Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:
- **2** Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.
- **3** Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.
- **4** And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.
- **5** And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.



Matthew 28:18-20

- ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.



Luke 9.57-62

And they went to another village. And as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But he said unto him, Leave the dead to bury their dead, but go thou and publish abroad the kingdom of God. And another said, I will follow thee, Lord; but suffer me first to bid farewell to them that are at my house. But Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand unto the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.



Introduction

- Christ does not want Christians or just converts – he wants disciples. A Christian is a follower of Christ, a convert means to change from one form to serve a different function.
- If you can be converted to Christianity, then you can be converted to something else. If you are just a follower of Christ, when things get tough you will follow your own dreams and desires.
- Conversion does not produce long-term fruit in the life of a person, only transformation does.
- Many converts are educated in the system of religion, they know what the bible says, but it stops there. Belief in Christ or the knowledge of the Bible alone is not enough to be a disciple of Christ.



Discipleship

Knowing & Sharing

Discipleship - Introduction

A disciple is a lifelong learner. When Christ calls us, we are to follow, wherever He leads and no matter the suffering involved. In human terms the rewards of discipleship seem rather meager. But when the true dimensions of life in Christ is discovered, we realize it's worth suffering for.

What is Discipleship?

- It is fulfilling the Great Commission:
- “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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”





The Great Commission

- D. L. Moody: It is better to train ten people than to do the work of ten people. But it is harder.
- **Dawson Trotman:** God works through men. I see nowhere in the Word where God picks an organization Do what others cannot and will not do.



What is Discipleship?

- The Great Commission is not primarily about evangelism, it is about disciple-making.



What is
Discipleship?

“Christian discipleship is a process that takes place within **accountable relationships** over a period of time for the purpose of bringing believers to spiritual maturity in Christ.”

Discipleship Is A Process

Disciple-making is a “shift from program-driven ministry to people-driven ministry ... move from concern about quantity (people, programs, square footage, dollars) to concern about quality (commitment, wisdom, relationships, values, lifestyle).”

George Barna (*Growing True Disciples*)





What is Discipleship?

“Disciple-making is not about replicable, transferable methods, but about the mystery of two walking together. Christian maturity is always a social, and never an individual reality. There is no such thing as my maturity. It is only our maturity.” George Barna





What is Discipleship?



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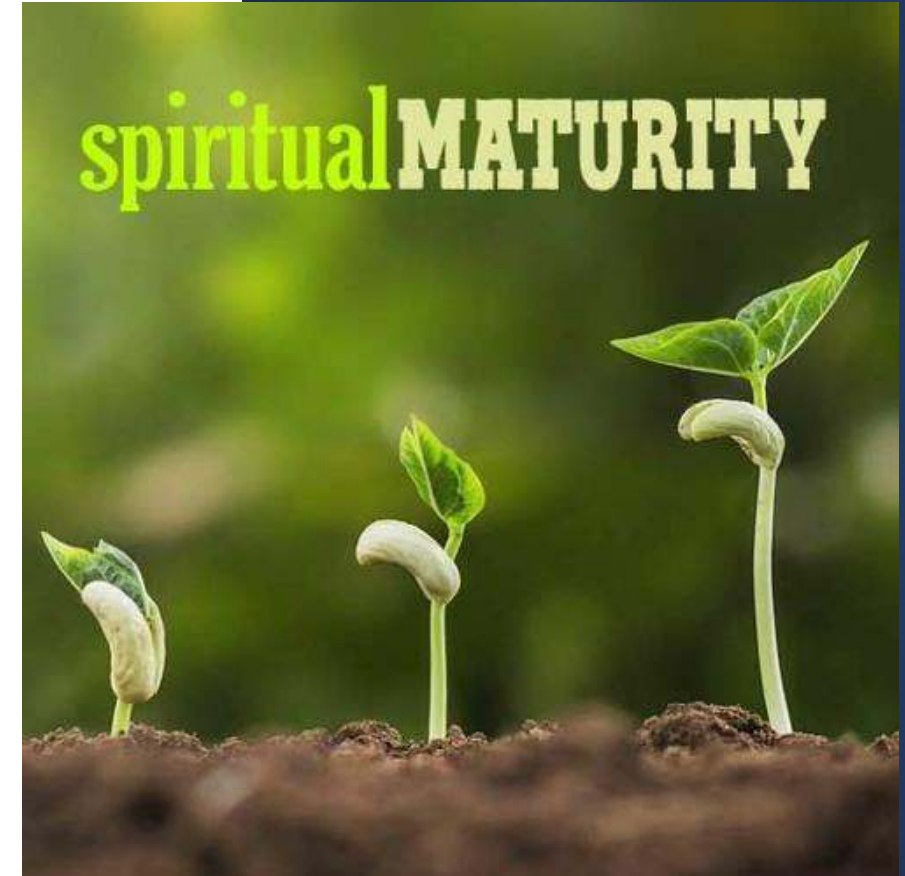


SPIRITUAL MATURITY

What is Discipleship? Its goal is
Spiritual Maturity |

What is Discipleship?

“Too often disciple-making has been understood as preaching the gospel, helping a penitent pray the sinner’s prayer, or offering a compelling case for Christian belief. Disciple-making surely includes all these things, but it has as its goal Christian maturity.”



A Mile Wide, An Inch Deep

What is
Discipleship?

- A key leader in Africa has stated of the evangelical movement there: “The church in Africa is one mile long, but only one inch deep. Discipleship is not information, but character formation.”



Why Focus On
Discipleship?

If churches continue to do what
we've always done, we're going to
get what we've always gotten.



Why Discipleship?

“Disciples don’t just happen. They’re developed through intentional planning and the effort of a community of believers. You, too, can make disciples in your church. But it won’t just happen. You need to decide what you’re going to do and how to do it.”

Discipleship Begins
By Responding To
The Call



Discipleship – The Call To Discipleship

There was nothing extraordinary about the fact that Jesus had a group of disciples. What was remarkable were the kind of men Jesus chose. Jesus saw potential in these men that most of us would not have discerned! What also is remarkable was their instant willingness to leave their daily business and follow this Carpenter from Nazareth.

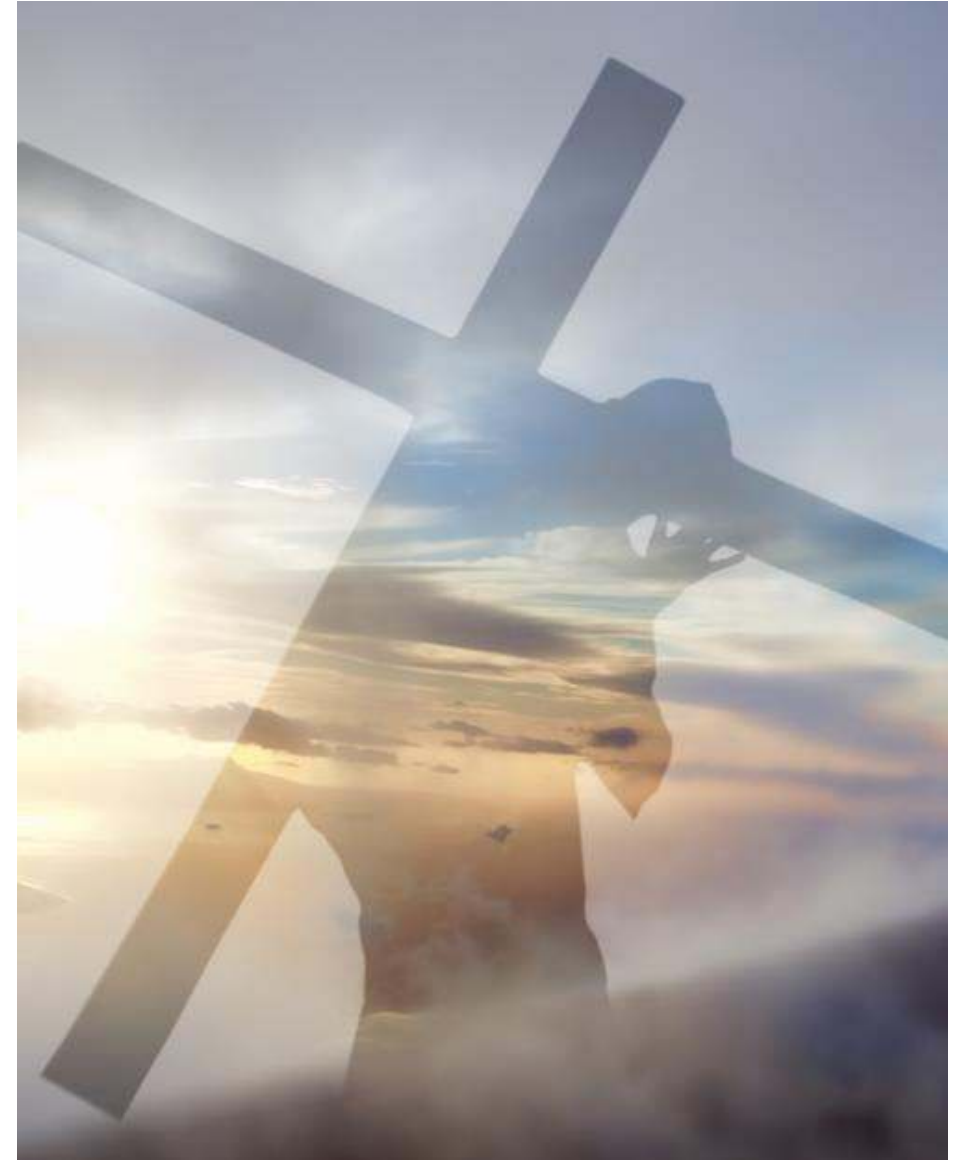
The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- And as he passed by he saw Levi, the son of Alphreus, sitting at the place of toll, and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him. (Mark 2.14)



The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- What happens? At the call, Levi leaves all that he has- but not because he thinks that he might be doing something worth while, but simply for the sake of the call.



The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- He is called out and must forsake his old life in order that he may "exist" in the strictest sense of the word and this new life.
- The old life is left behind, and completely surrendered.



The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- When we are called to follow Christ, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to his person.
- The grace of his call bursts all the bonds of legalism. It is a gracious call, a gracious commandment.



The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- It transcends the difference between the law and the gospel. Christ calls, the disciple follows: that is grace and commandment in one.
- **"I will walk at liberty, for I seek thy commandments"** (Ps. 119.45).





The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Faith can no longer mean sitting still and waiting, they must rise and follow him. The call frees them from all earthly ties and binds them to Jesus Christ alone.
- They must burn their boats and plunge into absolute insecurity in order to learn the demand and the gift of Christ.
- Had Levi stayed at his post, Jesus might have been his present help in trouble, but not the Lord of his whole life. In other words, Levi would never have learnt to believe.
- "Only those who obey can believe, and only those who believe can obey."



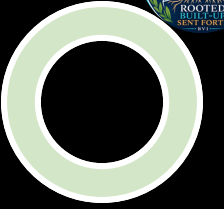
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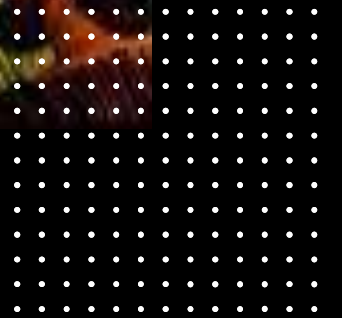
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- The first disciple offers to follow Jesus without waiting to be called.
- No man can choose such a life for himself. No man can call himself to such a destiny.
- The gulf between a voluntary offer to follow and genuine discipleship is clear, but where Jesus calls, he bridges the widest gulf

The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

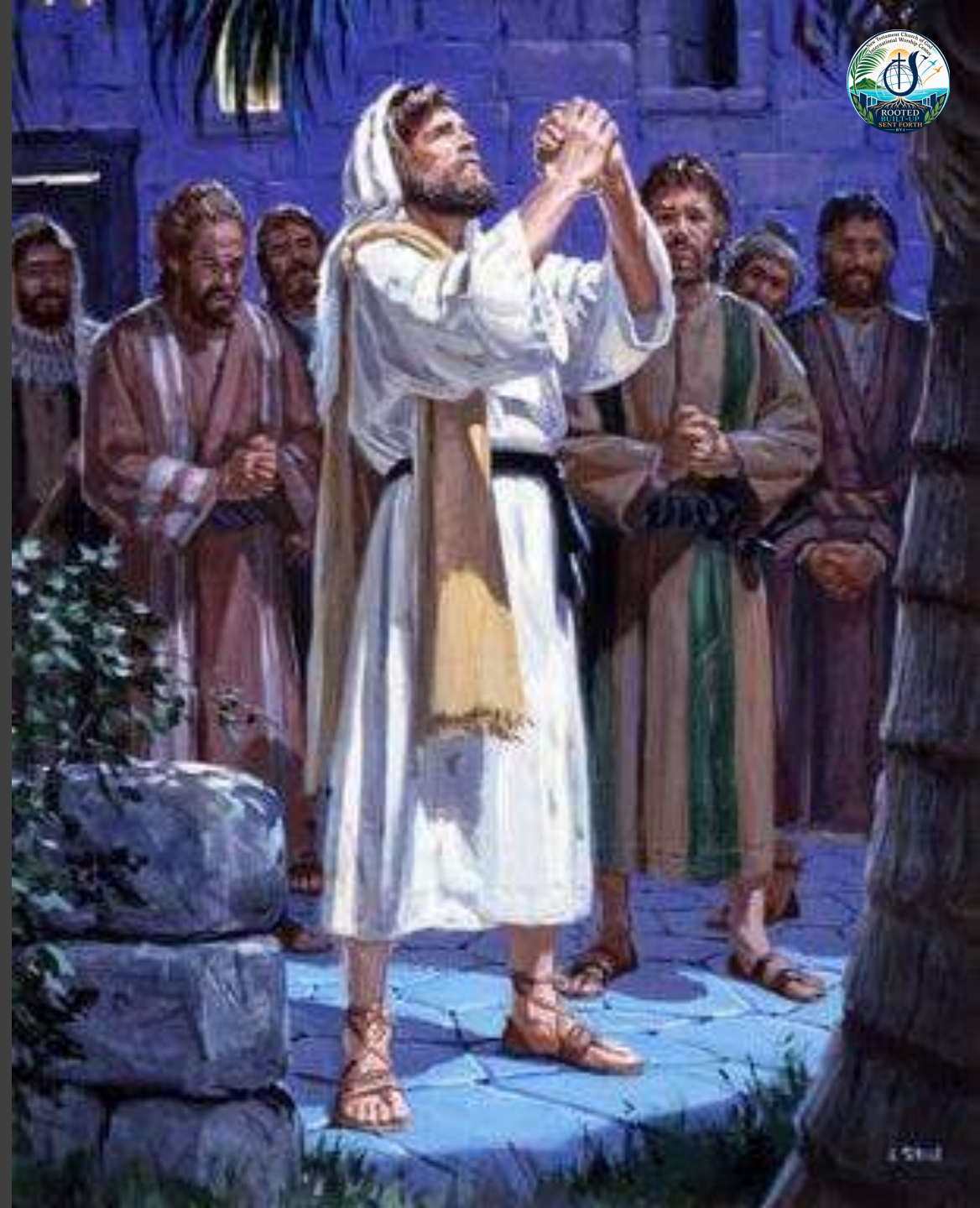


- The second would-be disciple wants to bury his father before he starts to follow. He is held bound by the trammels of the law. He knows what he wants and what he must do.
- At this critical moment nothing on earth, however sacred, must be allowed to come between Jesus and the man he has called



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- The third would-be disciple, like the first, thinks that following Christ means that he must make the offer on his own initiative, as if it were a career he had mapped out for himself.
- There is, however, a difference between the first would-be disciple and the third, for the third is bold enough to stipulate his own terms.



Summary

- Discipleship involves exclusive and total obedience to God.
- Christ presents the model of cost of discipleship especially by following the will of his father through his sacrifice on the cross.
- The path of discipleship begins with baptism which represents a death.



Questions

Does the Great Commission (making disciples) apply to all Christians or only to those specially gifted for it?

What can you do to help this church move toward a culture of discipleship? What would you need to change to do this?

If we should do an honest and personal inventory of myself about my faith, have I truly become His disciple or am I just wearing the uniform?

How do we gain an understanding of God's calling and how do we pursue this call wholeheartedly?



Questions

How has the gospel of cheap grace affected discipleship building within our churches?

Is it still practical to believe that believers can respond to the call by leaving their jobs or means of income?

Why should I be willing to give up riches, comfort, fun and even friends to follow Christ as His disciple?