



WE EXIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES

11.4.2018

John 8:31-36

- We exist to Make Disciples.
- **Q. Why? A. Because The Great Commission is not a great suggestion. Matthew 28:18-20.**

1. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

- The word “Disciple” literally means “learner; follower.” When it’s used by Jesus and by the apostles in the rest of the New Testament, it is synonymous with the word “Christian” or the word “Believer” or the word “Saint.”

1. A DISCIPLE IS SOMEONE WHO NOT ONLY BELIEVES JESUS, BUT BELIEVES IN JESUS

JOHN 8:31a 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, *(there’s no preposition between “believed” and “Him” in the Greek. Yet in verse 30, there was! Why does John write it differently in back to back verses?)*

- **John is contrasting the difference between Believing Jesus and Believing IN Jesus.**
- **BELIEVING Jesus would look like believing every single thing Jesus says about Himself—He’s the King; He’s the Savior! You can believe the entirety of the Bible and still not be saved; still not be a Disciple.**
- **Believing IN Jesus, however, means not only believing He IS the Savior and King, but embracing HIM through faith as “MY SAVIOR AND MY KING!” Not only believing what He says is the Truth, but embracing HIM as the TRUTH—the way, the truth, and the life by which no one is saved but through Him!**
- **Q. Do you believe IN, trust IN, Jesus alone as your Savior and King? Trusting His work in your place, and His authority in your life? Or do you merely believe it’s true? A disciples is someone who not only believes Jesus, but believes IN HIM.**

2. A DISCIPLE IS SOMEONE WHO NOT ONLY BELIEVES IN JESUS, BUT ABIDES IN JESUS

JOHN 8:31b “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

- **He does NOT say, “If you abide in my word, I will MAKE YOU my disciples.” No. “Your abiding shows you are mine.”**
- **Q. What does it look like to “abide in [Jesus’] word, and so prove to truly be His disciple”?**
- **A. That word “Abide” is the Greek word Menō. It’s used 120 times in the New Testament and usually it’s within a narrative and talking about “STAYING/REMAINING.”**
- **To “Abide in Jesus’ word” means that our trust and obedience remains in and to Him!**
- **Think of a Jesus and His Word like a BOAT in the middle of the sea. To ABIDE means that you remain in the boat, looking to what He has revealed to us in The Bible and sailing where he says to sail. We aren’t passive—we must lift the sails through studying the Scriptures, meditating on it’s truth, Prayer, putting our sin to death, reading healthy books, Worshiping Jesus together, loving and serving one another and the world! And through the lifting of those sails, God the Holy Spirit blows us where we need to go! That’s how we Abide. And if you truly belong to Him you WILL abide in His Word!**
- **To NOT abide means we jump ship from trusting and obeying Jesus. We seek for new knowledge, extra Biblical knowledge about how to build some other boat (in the middle of the sea) and come up with another route to the shore. It’s folly.**
- **To “Abide” means to sing daily with your life, that old Edward Mote song, “On Christ the solid rock I stand! All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand!”**
- **A Disciple is someone who not only believes in Jesus, but Abides in Him; Remains in Him; Abides in His Word; Remains in His Word; Someone who has forsaken their own life in order to live second by second through faith in Jesus “who loved me and gave Himself up for me” because “His steadfast love is better than life” (Psalm 63:3)!**
- **Therefore, hear me friends: The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint! That should be a sober challenge to some of you, and tremendous comfort to others.**
- **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,**

3. A DISCIPLE IS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN SET FREE FROM SIN'S POWER AND GUILT

JOHN 8:32-34 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

- **Q.** Freedom from what? **A.** Answer: Sin's power and guilt.

3.1. JESUS SETS PEOPLE FREE FROM SIN'S POWER (from their enslaving love for sin)

- **This freedom is not merely learning new facts, though it does include that.** Jesus isn't simply saying, “If you would get some new head knowledge, you would be truly free.” No. Because the “truth” that sets free is synonymous with “The Son” that sets free in verse 36 (look!). Jesus is Himself the truth.
- **Therefore, what it looks like to be a Disciple is not to BEGRUDGINGLY ABIDE in Jesus' word, while we'd rather be sinning.** No! No! No!
- **To be a Disciple of Jesus looks like JOYFULLY ABIDING in Jesus' word,** because Jesus has set us free from the love of sin—from sin's controlling power. The thing truly begrudging to a Disciple is sin—they hate it!
- **ROMANS 6:17-18** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, & having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.
- **GALATIANS 5:1** “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
- **The Christian life is not a journey; it's a Quest!** A journey is *there and back again*. Journey's change you for sure, but they end and then you return to where you once were. A Quest, however, claims your whole existence! It's ever onward toward a glorious destiny. And even if you come back where you once lived, you won't be satisfied. **You've been set free to live free. You'll never be at peace while you live in sin, praise God!**

3.2. JESUS ALSO SETS PEOPLE FREE FROM SIN'S GUILT (from the guilt and penalty we have earned)

JOHN 8:35 36 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

- **Jesus' point is that Slaves To Sin do not have a really place in the family—they will be thrown out!** This is the punishment we deserve for our sin against God. But if they're set free from sin's guilt by the Son, we will be free indeed!
- **ROMANS 8:1-2** 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- **So a Disciple is someone who has been set free from sin's POWER they once loved and sin's GUILT they once deserved.** Jesus sets us free from both our *ACTIVITY* and our *IDENTITY* as a *SINNER!*
- **The good news of the gospel is this:**
For all those who *BELIEVE IN HIM* and *ABIDE IN HIS WORD*, Jesus, on the cross, died taking the **death row sentence you've been convicted of**. He took your **electric chair**. He took your **lethal injection**. He took your **noose**. He took every ounce of God's justice you deserve.
- **But He did more! He also died to break the power sin has over you,** so that you wouldn't only be spared judgement, but you'd be able to walk out of that jail cell and live as you were meant to live—abiding in Him! He died to **break the chains**. He died to **emancipate you from your former slave master**.
- **That's why Charles Wesley wrote this beautiful verse:**
Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray: I woke—the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

WHAT IS OUR PART (INDIVIDUALLY & CORPORATELY) IN MAKING DISCIPLES?

1. We do whatever we can, guided by the Word of God, to help people not only *BELIEVE JESUS*, but *BELIEVE IN JESUS*. Praying for the Son to set them free as we get the gospel in people's ears and in front of their eyes.
2. We do whatever we can, guided by the Word of God, to help one another *ABIDE IN JESUS' WORD*.
3. As we love, pray, speak, work, give, and plant, we must remember that this whole things is less like trying to win arguments, and more like a prison break. People are slaves that need to be set free, or former slaves that need to be reminded of their freedom in Jesus and to live accordingly! **WE EXIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES!**