

Matthew 28:19—"Go and **make disciples** of all nations..."

Intro:

1. We are all disciples of some thing or someone - our career, sports, atheism, self-absorption, materialism, a cause, or Jesus.
2. There is a chasm of misunderstanding between what Jesus was saying and how we view this in Western culture!

PRIMARY Command is "make disciples" (not go as some would emphasize)

Μαθητεύσατε (mathateusate-aorist, active, Imperative.)

What is a Disciple (Follower)? 1st Century Model:

1. Has a Rabbi (one who has the authoritative role.)

2. Life is seen as Total submission to the Rabbi

- A disciple is one who totally surrenders to Him and His way of seeing and doing things. As such, a disciple comes with a willing desire to conform all aspects of his or her life to the authoritative Lordship of Jesus Christ.

3. Someone who would Deliberate and Contemplate over Scripture-Jesus/Rabbi's ask questions to make you **wrestle** for answer!

Jesus examples:

- Rhetorical questions
 - Mark 4:30-what compare kingdom with? ;9:50-If salt loses saltiness, then how does it season?
 - Matt. 7:9-10-Ask for bread will give a stone? Fish a snake?
- Counter questions
 - Matt. 12:11-12- And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. **11** He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not

take hold of it and lift it out? **12** Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

- Matt. 12:27-29- *"You say that I use the power of Beelzebul to force out demons. If that is true, then what power do your people use when they force out demons?"*
- Luke 7:39-42; 13:15-16; 14:1-5

4. Lives believing in the ultimate authority of Scripture and thus the causative factor in learning was that people usually came to text for answers to life questions!

5. Has A Highly Observable Daily Life.

- Intimacy
- Transparency

6. Emulates The One He/She is Following.

- Central to the disciple-becoming/making process was that the apprentice first learned **WHO God is** and then **WHAT He does**. It was about a PERSON not PRINCIPLES!

***Illustration:** We do this (apprenticeship) in others areas but not so much with our faith: Look at Doctors, nurses, golf pro, counselors, teachers.

Questions:

1. How would you describe your biblical understanding of making disciples to others? Is a deficiency in the answer keeping you from actually fully following Jesus and thus hindering you from making disciples of others?
2. In your life, is there a difference today between what it means to be a believer in Jesus Christ and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
3. To what extent do you wrestle today with life issues in relationship to the Scriptures?

4. We live in a culture that chafes under almost any concept of authority. "Do your own thing" is the mantra of the day. How might this cultural malaise impact our understanding and willingness to put ourselves under biblical authority?

5. Do you live a life of partial surrender, or an occasional surrender, a convenient surrender, or even token surrender to Him? How would you assess your willingness factor in regards to surrendering all areas of your life to the authority of God's Word? When you do surrender, is it a willing surrender, or a surrender that arises from some form of resentful, obligatory obedience?

6. Do you have a facade of Sunday Christianity and a life by refined religious behavioral cosmetics so that your life is not observable to other followers?