

# MAKING DISCIPLES

## I. JESUS' SECONDARY PURPOSE WAS MAKING DISCIPLES

A. Jesus instructs the disciples to go and make disciples, and this was their primary purpose, their overall mission in life. Matthew 28:18-20

B. A disciple is a learner, a student, a follower. In religious circles there was the teacher (the Rabbi) and his students, his disciples.

## II. THE EARLY DISCIPLES WERE A MIX OF BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS

A. John had his own disciples. The Pharisees considered themselves to be disciples of Moses. Matthew 9:14, John 9:24-29

B. The large crowds following Jesus were called disciples, but the whole crowd wasn't saved. This word disciple was initially being used in a way where it didn't necessarily refer to a true believer. Luke 6:17, John 6:66

## III. THE WORD DISCIPLE CAME TO REFER TO ONLY TRUE BELIEVERS

A. The word disciple came to be used to refer to only the saved. John 2:22, 8:31

B. Acts 6:1, 2, 7; Acts 9:1, 9:10, 9:19, 9:25, 9:36 – these references of disciples speak of those who are true believers.

C. The disciples were called Christians, but it was a derogatory term. Acts 11:26

## IV. JESUS WAS MAKING DISCIPLES DURING HIS MINISTRY YEARS

The apostles needed to be taught, to be trained, to be obedient, to be men who loved God and loved people, to be men of truth and integrity. Luke 6:40

## V. HOW WOULD JESUS MAKE DISCIPLES?

A. The apostles were continually with Jesus for over two years. Mark 3:13-16

B. They would learn all kinds of truth, about sin, suffering, faith, hope, love, obedience, the Holy Spirit, prayer, false teaching, prophecy, etc.

- C. Jesus would teach them in all kinds of settings. He would teach them using parables, when they were arguing, when they were with children, when they were with their enemies. Matthew 13, 16:21-23, 18:1-4
- D. Jesus was teaching them godly character – being patient, loving, forgiving, compassionate, strong, obedient, sacrificial and humble. John 13:12-16
- E. Jesus was teaching them how to teach and what to teach. Matthew 28:19-20
- F. Jesus prayed for His disciples. Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, John 17:13-21
- G. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He loved them. John 13:1-2

## VI. JESUS IS DISCIPLINING YOU – Mark 1:17

- A. Do you see yourself as Jesus' disciple? He disciplines you through His Word, His Spirit, the church, and through life situations.
- B. Some key marks and characteristics of a disciple:
  - 1. Luke 8:21 - A disciple is to hear the word of God and obey it.
  - 2. John 15:7-8 - A disciple is to be fruitful.
  - 3. Galatians 5:22 - A disciple is to have good character.
  - 4. John 13:34-35 - A disciple is to be loving others.

**BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES,  
IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.  
John 13:34-35**

### SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is a disciple? Do you see yourself as Jesus' disciple?
3. How did the use of the word disciple Biblically change over time?
4. Why was it so important for Jesus to be making disciples?
5. What was Jesus teaching His disciples? How would He teach them?
6. How did Jesus show His disciples that He loved them? Why was this so important?
7. How can you grow in being a better disciple of Jesus?