



## *Called and Sent* (Part 2)

Discipleship making in the 21st century. People connecting with people, using technology to communicate, to span different time zones, different continents, different cities, but it is the same gospel, the same good news of salvation that we share to others. It is the same gospel that Peter preached on the day of the Pentecost – when 3,000 Jews repented of their sins and put their faith in Jesus. (Acts 2:41) The gospel that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, died for our sins, was buried and on the third day, was raised from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:3-6). That there is no salvation apart from him (Acts 4:12) and those who call upon him must turn away from their sins, believe and embrace Jesus as both LORD and SAVIOUR by faith (Acts 2:38, Ephesians 2:8.9).

But *“how are they to call on one they have not believed in? And how are they to believe in one they have not heard of? And how are they to hear without someone preaching to them? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How timely is the arrival of those who proclaim the good news”* (Romans 10:14-15, NET)

In John 20:21b, Jesus said, *“Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you.”* We are called to tell the good news of salvation to our friends, our families, and those whom God has led our way.

### **A. What does it mean to make disciples in the New Testament?**

In Acts 14:21 *“When [Paul and Barnabas] had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch...”* . To make disciples, therefore, means to bring people to Christ (make new converts) by sharing the gospel.

But making disciples also involves nurturing them to grow in their faith. As they travelled back to Antioch passing through Lystra and Iconium, Paul and Barnabas continued to nurture the new converts, *“...strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”* (v.22)

Matthew 28:18-20: *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

The main verb in this passage is “make disciples” - bringing people to Christ, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey ALL that Jesus has commanded. The Lord has two ordinances for the church - the Lord's Supper and baptism, and this passage clearly shows the Lord's command for his followers to be baptized. The person who obeys ALL that Jesus commands becomes more like him. So, making disciples also means nurturing a convert to mature in his or her faith so the follower would look more and more like the one whom he or she is following!

### **B. How are disciples made?**

How does a person become a disciple or a true follower of Jesus? It is through the ministry of God's Word! As Romans 10:17 says *“Consequently faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of Christ.”* (NET). In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the apostle Paul writes that: *“Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.”* (NET) How does this take place? Through the preaching of God's Word on Sundays, or through the study of the bible whether individually or in small groups, through intentional one on one or couple to couple discipleship where we refer to passages in the bible in addressing specific issues. But we must be careful that in listening to sermons or studying the bible, we do not end up just storing knowledge of God's Word.

## Called and Sent (continued)

Psalms 1:1-2 clearly demonstrates that it is God's Word that shapes right thinking, and right affections or passions lead to right living. Verse 1 is the doing part, and according to this verse, right living or righteous living means not behaving or acting as the wicked do in day to day life. In v.2a this man's delight is on the instructions of the Lord, which talks of having the right or holy affections. V. 2b talks of meditating, and it involves cerebral exercise and/or thinking. It is the Word of God that shapes right thinking, right affections, and right living or action. Simply put, right living is the result of right thinking and right affections shaped by God's Word/the Bible!

### C. What should be our primary motivation in making disciples?

Making disciples must be motivated by love and not by duty. In John 14:15, Jesus told his disciples, *"If you love me, keep my commands."* The proof that we love the Lord is not by oral declaration or by profession for others to hear. It is in obedience.

First, we love because the Lord first loved us. We obey His commands and his great commission because of our love for him. Second, in his love for us, he did not leave us alone to carry out what he began in redeeming the world. The Father has sent the Spirit to empower us to do His will. *"As the Father has sent me"*, says our Lord Jesus, *"I am sending you."* (John 20:21)

At the end of our earthly life we will be with the Lord. Paul looks forward to it – *"to be with Christ is far better."* *"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain"* when we are with Jesus for all eternity according to Revelation 21:4. So, for the true follower of Christ – the faithful one – even when we suffer in this life, we suffer with joy because we know that our sufferings are momentary. Followers of Jesus are hope-filled because they know how things are going to end!

Meantime, we remain in this world. But we live a purpose driven life because we are a sent people – people with a mission.

### Review (Knowledge)

Please take a few minutes to read the summary above. What is the highlight of last Sunday's sermon for you and why?

### B. Sharing (Practical Wisdom)

1. Describe the time in your life when someone helped introduce you to Jesus and when someone helped nurture your faith in Him. How did hearing the gospel impact your life?
2. What are some hindrances to sharing your faith to your loved ones or friends. How can you overcome them?
3. Read Mathew 22:36-39. Loving God and loving others should be the foundation of discipleship making. What does the time you spend in His Word say about your love for Him? How would lack of time in reading and meditating on Scriptures be a hindrance to having spiritual conversations with others? What does the time you spend (or lack of it) in spiritual conversation with others say about your love for God and others? Name some practical steps you will take in so that you can make spending time in God's Word a priority in your day to day life. In what practical ways can you initiate spiritual conversations at home or with those of your circle of influence.

### C. Prayer Take time to pray for one another.