

## Discipleship – Part 2

### The Importance Of The Word

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#### 1 Introduction

#### **Matthew 28:16-20 New International Version (NIV)**

#### **The Great Commission**

***16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***

## **Making Disciples**

- The job of the church is to make disciples
- Everything we do as a church should be centered around this one principal
- Discipleship involves many aspects
- Today we are going to talk about the principal of God's Word and the importance of it in Discipleship

### **1 God's Word Teaches Us to be Godly**

#### **2 Timothy 3:16**

***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,***

- The Word of God teaches us God's Will
- The Word of God convicts, bringing us into repentance, which leads to godliness.
- The Word of God Resolves Conflicts

- The Word of God Guides Our Decisions
- The Word of God Protects Us
- The Word of God sinks into our hearts.
  - It is like a planted seed that with time and care, it sprouts and grows.

## 2 The Word of God Should Produce Fruit

### **Matthew 13:1-9 (NIV)**

#### ***The Parable of the Sower***

***13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the***

***plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”***

### **Matthew 13:18-23 (NIV) – Explanation**

***18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.***

***20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.***

***22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.***

***23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.***

***This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."***

- We have to read the Word with sincerity
- We have to digest and meditate on what it says
- We have to ask God to reveal the secrets of His Word
- We have to ask questions when we aren't sure
- When we don't spend time in the Word we are spending time in the World.
- The world tries to squash what is sewn.
- We have to be dedicated to spend time in His Word
  - Both individually and corporately

### **3 God's Word is Meant To Be Shared**

***Matthew 5:13-15 (NIV)***

***Salt and Light***

***13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.***

**14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- In order to share God's Word, we have to know God's Word
- When we read the Bible, Scripture penetrates our hearts and soaks into our souls.

### **Hebrews 4:12**

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

- When temptation is knocking at the door, open the Bible, not the door.
  - It is very hard to fall into temptation when reading God's Word

- The world is almost a complete contradiction to the Bible
- We have to be strong in the Word in order to stand strong in the world.

## 4 Conclusion

- If we are going to be disciples, which essentially means student, then we have to be willing to learn.
- How do we learn? Through study.
- Without God's Word feeding us daily, we are like sheep amongst wolves.
- Being in the Word has to involve you and the Bible.
- When we read the Bible, our spirit begins to be fed by God.
- When our spirit is fed, then we can begin to disciple others.
  - You won't be very successful at running a marathon without food for energy. This is also true when it comes to our spiritual walk.

## Challenge

Let's start with the book of John and read at least one verse a day (feel free to read more).

Before reading, pray and ask God the following:

- Please open my heart, mind, and spirit to receive your Word.
- What is it you want me to learn from your Word today?
- Is there anything in my life that you are trying to address through this passage?
- How can I apply what I read to my life?
- How can I use this to bless another life?

Use the following log to write the chapter / verse that you read each day. The person with the most read passages by next Sunday will receive a prize.