

## **Sermon Brief, Important Quotes, Helpful Links and Discussion Questions**

May 9, 2021

Making Disciples: A Practical Guide

1 Thessalonians 1 and 2

### **Sermon Brief:**

1. How can you make an impact on another person for Jesus?
2. We are looking at the ministry of the apostle Paul and highlighting 8 different characteristics of a person who is making disciples.
  - a. He tells other people the gospel. (Acts 17)
  - b. He depends on God. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-4)
  - c. He encourages believers. (1 Thessalonians 1)
  - d. He models the faith. (1 Thessalonians 1:4,5 and 2 Thessalonians 3:7,8)
  - e. He perseveres in difficulty. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2)
  - f. He maintains his aim. (1 Thessalonians 2:3-6)
  - g. He cares for people. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)
  - h. He speaks the truth. (1 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
3. There's a lot that goes into being a church and there are a lot of different skills that are needed. But all those different skills aren't accomplishing much if they aren't helping us obey Jesus' command to make disciples.
4. What steps will you take this week to be obedient to fulfilling this great commission?

### **Important Quotes:**

When we talk about discipleship we are talking about intentional friendship with a spiritual goal.

“When we make disciples we are working to see people who do not follow Jesus come to follow him (conversion) and then teaching them to faithfully follow Jesus in every area of their lives (maturity).” Erik Raymond

If we want to be good at anything we want to be good at making disciples: helping people know Jesus, obey Jesus, and serve Jesus.

“As disciplers, you want to try to find ways to make your every day life, visible, accessible and reproducible.” Jeff Vanderstledt

“We would prefer to lob grenades of truth into people's lives rather than lay down our lives for them. But this is exactly what Christ did for us. Can we expect to be called to do anything less?” Paul Tripp

How do we disciple? I am not advocating so much a program, as a lifestyle.

### **Helpful Links:**

1. [David and Svea Flood](#)
2. [You are unbiblical if you don't want others to imitate your faith](#)

3. [A FAQ on Shaping Your Ministry Around Disciple-Making](#)
4. [You want to share the gospel? Start with this question](#)

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Talk about someone God used to change your life. What did they do that made such an impact on you?
2. Do you see yourself as a disciplemaker? Why or why not? If not, how do you feel about that? What do you think would need to change in your life for you to obey the Great Commission?
3. What is something that stood out most to you from our discussion on Sunday about how to make disciples? What is one characteristic from the eight that we discussed that you think you need the most work on?
4. I want you to imagine a group of people who are not encouraging to other believers. They are not looking for ways God's at work in people's lives. When someone makes a mistake or sins, even if they are repentant, it's like they are put in the corner and that failure defines them. What do you think is going on there? Why is that a problem? And what is the problem exactly? What are some reasons believers should be very encouraging people?
5. D.A. Carson asks: "Do you ever say to a young Christian, 'Do you want to know what Christianity is like? Watch me!' If you never do, you are unbiblical." Why would he say something like that? What do you think about that statement?
6. What needs to happen if someone else is going to imitate you? What are some specific ways you can make your life visible and accessible to others so that they can learn how to follow Jesus by watching how you follow Jesus?
7. When do you think you should give up on someone you are attempting to make an impact for Jesus on? (If that seems like a tough question, it's intentional. Don't be afraid to be upset at the question or to question the question or to just discuss.)
8. Sometimes we start ministry relationships for the right reason but get distracted along the way and it becomes about something else. What are some bad motivations for discipleship relationships? Can you think of a time when you started going off track? What are some symptoms you are doing the right thing for the wrong reason?
9. Discipleship involves teaching. What are some different ways you can go about teaching others how to follow Christ? See if you can make a list of ten suggestions. After you make the list, which one are you going to try?
10. What step are you going to take this week to apply what you learned from this sermon to your life?