

October Teaching Theme: Community on Mission

讲员 Speaker: Dr. Victor Hamilton

题目 Topic: "Making Disciples"

经文 Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Monthly Theme: This month's theme is the next logical step from our 8-week series on "What is the Gospel?" as we now turn to talk about the Church being a "Community on Mission." Those who give their allegiance (faith, trust, exclusive loyalty) to King Jesus have been and are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus and are now called to bear witness of this Good News as the community of God's people. **Living "on mission" is a lifestyle of Christian Witness of the Good News of King Jesus through both words and deed (action).**

This week we talked about the core function of multiplication in the church - Discipleship. The Church functions by multiplication. One person mentors three people in the way of Jesus and then those three people go and do the same, and repeat, causing exponential growth. The power of this mentorship is amazing to reflect upon. Jesus spent the majority of his three years of ministry with the twelve original disciples, who then went and taught others, all the way to the planting of a Chinese Church in Central Kentucky! (Amazing Right?). If we are not partaking in holistic disciple-making, the Church is no longer functioning as the Church.

Making disciples is intentionally and actively laying down your life to show the people around you what it means to follow Christ

Resources:

Bible Project Video: [Witness](#) [English - Chinese Subtitles Available under Settings]

If your group has not watched this video yet, please watch

["Making Disciples Starts Somewhere"](#) - David Platt (3 min Warm-up Video)

[Sermon Video](#) (Dr. Hamilton)

Sermon PPT Attached

Important Notes (Pastor Will):

Notes Concerning Matthew 28:16-20:

- Note the context of this passage is after Jesus' death, resurrection, and spending 40 days with his followers post-resurrection. Here we are witnessing Jesus' words before his ascension to sit at the right hand of God, enthroned as King.
- Reflecting upon verse 17, **"When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted."** reveals the nature of responses to the Good News that Jesus is King. Even among those who witnessed Jesus post-resurrection doubted him! Thus, we should seek to influence all people with the freeing news of the Gospel, but not be surprised at those who reject the message.
- In verse 18, **"All Authority"** is related to Jesus Kingship or Lordship. He now reigns as King over heaven and earth and will return to make things right, reuniting heaven and

earth. Jesus as King has the authority to declare what is good and what is evil.

Sometimes people misunderstand the nature of “authority” and “control,” with our frequent out of context phrase, “God is in control.” Yes, “God is in control,” in a sense, but this control is not coercive control. God is in control like an “authority figure.” A good example to think of is a parent. A parent is in control over their children, setting the boundaries, giving instruction and directions, providing for their children, but ultimately they don’t “control” their children. The children as free-decision-making beings can make the choice to submit to the good authority of their parents or not. This example can only be taken so far, but it helps give us an idea of God’s authority and the nature of control, as God chooses to give humanity “free-will.” God is in authority as King, working within creation to guide it to the ultimate end in the “New Heaven & New Earth,” but he chooses to not exhibit coercive control over being he granted “free-will.” There is disagreement on how exactly this relationship of God’s sovereignty and humanity’s free-will relates, but it’s important we recognize God’s “authority” with a correct notion of “control.”

- Looking at verse 19, “**go and make disciples**,” it is important to recognize the central command. Often there has been an overemphasis on the “**Go**” portion, particularly when we limit our “disciple-making” ideas to “foreign missions” (which can be wonderful things), but the command (imperative) in this passage is “**make.**” Thus our ultimate focus should be upon “making disciples” in the spaces God has put us, and sometimes that will call us to “go” elsewhere.
- Looking at verse 19, “**all nations**,” is a crucial framework for understanding the mission of God and the call of the church. This calls us to look all the way back at Genesis where God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising to use his family to bring “**all nations**” to the one true God. In Jesus and the Church, this promise is being fulfilled. It is also important the term behind our “all nations” translation (ethnos) is best understood as “**all people groups**,” not necessarily the modern idea of “nation-states.” We see this vision is completed when Jesus returns with the multi-ethnic non-violent army of the Lamb made up of “**every tribe, language, and ethnicity**,” worshipping the slain Lamb King.
- Jesus’ words focus upon two important pieces of discipleship: (1) “baptizing” and (2) “teaching.” Baptism is the symbolic sacrament of a new follower of Jesus telling the world they have given their allegiance (trust) to King Jesus. The symbol shows us our old self has died with Christ and we raised to new life in Him. Making disciples includes calling other to give their allegiance to King Jesus and to walk in new life. Teaching then follows straight forward from that - that we would as a community be teaching and seeking to live out the ways of King Jesus and the Upside-Down Kingdom.
- Looking at the final words of Jesus in verse 20, “**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age**,” gives us great hope, knowing that Jesus walks with us through the power of the Holy Spirit in all our circumstances in life. He has not left us powerless in the process of “disciple-making,” but partners with us. These words of Jesus point us forward to the Pentecost experience of the early church in Acts 2.

Discussion Questions:

- (1) Read Matthew 28:16-20 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage? What does this important passage tell us about “making disciples”?
- (2) Reflecting upon Jesus’ life, in what way(s) did Jesus spend the three years of his life in active ministry “making disciples”? In other words, how did Jesus do what he asks you and me to do?
- (3) What is the difference between believing in Jesus for eternal salvation, and believing in Jesus so much you want to become one of his followers?
- (4) In his message, Dr. Hamilton listed five reasons why many Christians never become disciple-makers. Can you identify with any of them, and if so, which one(s)? (See PPT)
- (5) What did you think of Dr. Hamilton’s idea of comparing a sermon to eating a meal, and his suggestion that sermons (by themselves) do not make disciples?
- (6) Can you share a brief story of some believer who has deeply invested his/her life in you, or a story about you becoming a disciple-maker?
- (7) Spend-time praying together for those in your life you are seeking to grow in Jesus with.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

使人作我的门徒

Dr.Hamilton 10/18

“十一个门徒往加利利去，到了耶稣约定的山上。他们见了耶稣就拜他，然而还有人疑惑。耶稣进前来，对他们说：「天上地下所有的权柄都赐给我了。所以，你们要去，使万民作我的门徒，奉父、子、圣灵的名给他们施洗。凡我所吩咐你们的，都教训他们遵守，我就常与你们同在，直到世界的末了。」”

马太福音 28:16-20

一，序言

耶稣的最后遗言，“所以，你们要去，使万民作我的门徒”。极其重要。

二，门徒和信徒

A：有关门徒的几点事实

a, 门徒在新约中266次。240在4福音书中，26在使徒行传，没有在其他新约书中，保罗从来没有用过，彼得雅各也没有，看来门徒是在福音上的，原因耶稣有一群人和他一起生活。240在福音书只有4次是耶稣说的，其他是福音书作者。

b, 四次耶稣所说的地方

1, 太26:18 “耶稣说：「你们进城去，到某人那里，对他说：『夫子说：我的时候快到了，我与门徒要在你家里守逾越节。』」”马太福音 26:18

2, 约13:35 “你们若有彼此相爱的心，众人因此就认出你们是我的门徒了。”

约翰福音 13:35

3, 约15:8 “你们多结果子，我父就因此得荣耀，你们也就是我的门徒了。”

约翰福音 15:8

4, 太28：19 所以，你们要去，使万民作我的门徒，奉父、子、圣灵的名给他们施洗。

c, 耶稣三年训练12位门徒。75%和门徒一起。大部分时间门徒训练。鼓励门徒和训练门徒。

d, 12门徒都是男人。都是犹太人。第二职业传道人，不指只有男人才能做门徒。找男人的原因：1, 因和门徒一起生活很近，女人不合适。2, 有一天门徒会殉道，不要让女人来受罪，3, 向犹太人传福音，当时的传统也是用男人给拉比作助手。12门徒工作评估不会得A的。门徒离弃耶稣。12女人也许会更好？也许女门徒不会象男门徒糟糕

也许男门徒带男门徒，女门徒带女门徒？

B, 门徒的意义

a, 功效

1, 带人信主

2, 帮信徒成长,

3, 帮信徒成门徒

b, 参与教会是否足够

1, 我们来教会

2, 奉献

3, 参加活动

c, 为什么我们很多人不做？

1, 觉得是牧师的工作

2, 我不合格

3, 很忙

4, 我怕失败

5, 没有人帮我, 我怎知道如何帮人呢。

C, 信徒和门徒的区别

1, 结婚仪式和婚姻生活的区别同样, 前者相似信徒

2, 信是神的作为, 门徒是我们自己竭力

3, 成为基督徒是回应神的呼召, 门徒是回应神证呼召跟随

4, 拯救是恩典, 门徒是圣灵帮助下我们作工, 也就是祷告, 读经, 分享福音。“论到 麦基洗德, 我们有好些话, 并且难以解明, 因为你们听不进去。看你们学习的工夫, 本该作师傅, 谁知还得有人将 神圣言小学的开端另教导你们, 并且成了那必须吃奶、不能吃干粮的人。凡只能吃奶的都不熟练仁义的道理, 因为他是婴孩; 惟独长大成人的才能吃干粮; 他们的心窍习练得通达, 就能分辨好歹了。”希伯来书 5:11-14

成长后不能永远吃奶。

D, 带人信主成为主的门徒的重要性

基督徒的特权是遵守大使命，带领人信主是何等的满足和喜乐。

我们记不住五个以前听过的讲道，但能记住5个在我生命中有影响的人。

讲道功效是：传递信息，影响，激发，鼓励等

讲道象预备饭菜，最好一周后就不记得了，讲道有立时的功效，但带人信人，成为门徒有永远的效果。

三，结语：

有一天你也许会成为人家脑中影响最深5个人中之一。

你能例出五位吗？

Make disciples

Mat.28:16-20

Dr. Hamilton

Key verse: therefore go and make disciples of all nations... 28:19a

The last words of Jesus before He ascended to Heaven

“Disciples” in NIV appears #266 times in NT, w 240 in the Gospels , 26 in Acts, 0 in the rest of NT, Paul didn't use the word ONCE, neither in the books written by Peter, James, etc

So the word “disciple” is exclusive a word of gospel. Why?

Only 4 in 240 times were said by Jesus, the rest by the gospel writers

Mat 26:18 (mentioned in Mark and Luke too), about Jesus and his disciples celebrate Passover

John 13:35, if you love each other, people would know you are my disciples

John 15:8 bear fruits, showing you are my disciples

Mat 28:19 make disciples of all nations

Jesus spent 3 years on Earth training his 12 disciples, poured His life on them. Some say Jesus spent about 75% of time with them, only 25% w crowds. So majority of His time on Earth is to make disciples, and He wants them to do the same—disciples making disciples

Notice—all 12 were men, not 6/6 half/half men/women, and all Jewish men, all second career ministers (doesn't mean only man can be full time minister)

Reasons that He chose men as His disciples:

1. Intimate relationship—close corner, eat, sleep together (not appropriate w another sex)
2. They will face great opposition, life in danger, would die as a young man
3. Sensitive to His Jewish tradition—a senior rabbi would surround himself with men

We would agree none of 12 could get A in their report card: one betrayed him, one denied Him 3times, all fled when He was on the cross suffering, after pouring his life on them for 3years

Would Jesus had accomplished more if He chose 12 women?

It's best for man to make male disciples and woman to make female ones

What did Jesus mean by “to make disciples “?

1. To help sb who is not follower of Jesus to become a believer
2. To help a believer to grow and mature in their faith
3. To help believers to disciple other believers

Why some not involved in “making disciples “? Even we do all the other right things as Christians

1. Isn't it the pastor's responsibility?
2. Limit knowledge of bible, I am not qualified
3. Too busy, other responsibilities
4. Afraid to fail, to make matters worse
5. None helped me to go and mature in my faith

What is the difference between being a Christian and becoming a disciple—just like getting married and staying married—Hard work, try all to stay healthy in the relationship

1. Becoming a Christian is the work of what Jesus did on the cross; becoming a disciple, we have to carry our own cross
2. “Come unto me” vs “Come after me”
3. Salvation is all about God's Grace, discipleship is about work aided by the HS, through discipleship we grow in our faith

Hebrews 5:11-14 drinking milk alone as a baby vs eating solid food as an adult

The privilege of making disciples, few things could bring more satisfaction than bring others to be more like Christ!

Story:

Any five sermons changed your life? 0

How many persons make enduring impact in your life? All raised hands

Sermons can't make disciples—listening good sermon is like eating a delicious meal, immediate impact, important, (like Shirley's good cooking or anyone remember Dr. Hamilton's last sermon)

Let's hope YOU are remembered by sb because the impact you have on her/his life