

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Matthew 28 / Luke 14

In Matthew 28, we are commanded by Jesus to go into all the world and make disciples, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” But what does being a disciple mean? It means that I’m taking a younger believer under my wing. I’m helping them to get established and spiritually mature. And at the same time, I have someone in my life that’s helping me grow as well. But you can’t make a disciple if you are not first a disciple yourself. It takes one to make one.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **A disciple must love Jesus Christ more than anyone or anything else.** The idea is that our love for Christ should be so strong that our love for our family members and loved ones would seem like hatred in comparison. This also means not letting our relationships with others get in the way of our relationship with God.
2. **A disciple must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Jesus daily.** The idea of denying yourself means surrendering your claim to your possessions, being willing to let them go for the sake of Christ. Taking up your cross means swallowing your pride and doing what God would have you do, rather than what you want to do.
3. **A disciple must turn the title deed of his life over to Christ.** You cannot become Christ’s disciple without giving up everything you own (Luke 14:33). The King James translation of verse 33 is to forsake all that you have. It is reminding ourselves that we are not owners. We are stewards. We recognize that God is the owner. He has the pink slip. He is in control of it all.
4. **A disciple must impact their culture.** We should live our lives in such a way that people can tell there is something different about us. We are to be salt in the lives of others: valuable (salt is the root word for “salary”), making a difference (preserving and flavoring food), and stimulating a thirst for God (causing a desire to know more).
5. **A disciple brings forth spiritual fruit.** In John 15:8 Jesus says, “By this is my father, glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples” (ESV). If you are really a disciple of Jesus, you will have fruit in your life. It means results. It means evidence. Can I see the evidence of Christ in your life?

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

- As you lose your life, meaning giving it to God, you find your life. You find your purpose and meaning in life by putting God first.
- Your only real passion and obsession in life should be Christ. The things we get in life have their place, but they should not have the most important place.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

The question is, are you a disciple? Perhaps you have done one or two of the things listed above that it takes to be a disciple, but not all. Maybe you haven't done any of them. If you are ready to stop being a fair-weather follower, or a spiritual baby, then why not take the opportunity to commit yourself to being a true disciple of Christ.