



RCC Phoenix – 4.26.20 – Becoming Disciples (Week 2)

Jesus last commandment to His disciples and followers (after He rose from the dead and before He ascended to heaven) was Preach the Gospel and Make Disciples of all people.

Matthew 28:16-20 NLT

“Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

1. Disciples of Christ _____ on the Commands of Jesus

Context sheds light on the _____ of a word or passage.

Doug Greenwold was a Biblical teacher and the founder of a ministry called “Preserving Bible Times.” He writes about a widespread understanding of first century disciples regarding their beliefs.

Doug’s definition of the cultural understanding of the Biblical word _____ gives us great context.

“Believe” is a _____. The Jewish understanding of “believe” was not based on an intellectual assent to a creed, doctrinal statement, or series of faith propositions. Rather, to a first-century disciple “believe” is a verb in which you *willingly submitted* to your rabbi’s interpretive authority regarding God’s Word in every area of your life. Thus, to say you were a disciple in the name of Gamaliel, meant that you totally surrendered your life to Gamaliel’s way of interpreting Scripture. As a result, you conformed all of your life’s behavior to his interpretations.” - Doug Greenwold

Two of Jesus’ foundational commands to His disciples are:

- A. Love _____ & Love _____

Matthew 22:37-40 NLT

“Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

B. Love One _____

John 13:34-35 NLT

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Jesus is talking to His _____ in this passage.

He is telling them that everyone around them will know they are HIS disciples by the way they love the other disciples and followers of Jesus.

This lone passage should put to rest all of the arguing and hateful interactions between fellow Christ followers across the globe!!

We are not in _____ with other churches, ministries, pastors, Christians or denominations. We are on the same team. And even more importantly, Jesus commands His disciples to love them.

2. Disciples of Christ _____ Him

“While not overtly required, disciples invariably had a deep desire to emulate their rabbi. This often included _____ how their rabbi ate, observed the Sabbath, what he liked and disliked, as well as his mannerisms, prejudices and preferences. Some disciples would go to extreme lengths to try to imitate their rabbi.” - Doug Greenwold

There is a story told of one disciple who so wanted to emulate his rabbi that he hid in the rabbi’s _____ to see how the rabbi treated and interacted with his wife so he could treat his wife the same way.

Notice the disciples _____ their life to the life of their rabbi / teacher.

If there were areas that did not measure up to their rabbi / teacher standard, their disciples changed their behavior in _____ to him.

1 Peter 2:21-25 NLT

“For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.”

Since our goal is to become a disciple of Christ and emulate Him, let's compare our lives to His example.

- I. He never sinned...
- II. nor ever deceived anyone.
- III. He did not retaliate when he was insulted...
- IV. nor threaten revenge when he suffered.
- V. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly...
- VI. ... live for what is right.

This list is only the tip of the iceberg for the way Jesus lived.

Question: How does my life compare to Jesus & His Word?