

1. Review

- Matthew 28:19-20 is a commission to ‘*make disciples*.’
- Critics refer to it as the Great Omission, as the church has over-emphasized the *going* and largely left out disciple-making
- See Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship*.¹

- Four verbs – (1) Imperative and (3) participles

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| “therefore, go” | Verb/aorist/passive/participle |
| “make disciples” | Verb/aorist/active/imperative |
| “baptizing” | Verb/present/active/participle |
| “teaching” | Verb/present/active/participle |

- Going, Baptizing, and Teaching function in support of the main verb – Make Disciples.
- See the multitude of Church sermon series available called “Go!” (do a Google search for ‘sermon series Go,’ and they will populate).

2. What is a Disciple?

- What is a disciple?
- How do you make a disciple?
- What did Jesus and his disciples think a disciple was? First-century Rabbi/Disciple model.
- Having a modern-day vision for making disciples.
- The power/force that a disciple of Jesus has in the world.

| Hebrew | | Greek | |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|---------|
| <i>Talmid</i> | תלמיד | <i>Mathetes</i> | μαθητής |
| <i>Lamad</i> | למד | | |

- See 1 Chronicles 25:8
- 1 & 2 Chronicles are the final books to be written in the Hebrew canon. They are post-exile in Babylon books. While the Jews were in Babylon, with no Temple and sacrifice system, there was a rise in synagogue and Rabbi/disciple because they did not have the centrality of the Temple priesthood.
- Rather than Judea and Jerusalem, Galilee was heavily influenced by recent immigrants from Babylon with their Rabbi/disciple and synagogue model.

¹ Dallas Willard, 2006. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship*, New York: Harper Collins.

- Discipleship is about being instead of merely knowing.
- The disciple wants to be what the Rabbi is – although undoubtedly, this does include learning information from the Rabbi – emphasizing putting that information into action.
- When we are disciples of Jesus, we want to become just like Jesus.
- Being/becoming Christlike.
- Discipleship is a transformational process of the soul and character of the individual.

- See **Luke 6:40**

- See also **1 Corinthians 11:1** – Paul implores them to imitate him until the Corinthians have matured in their faith and spiritual development. We are sheep in need of a shepherd. When growing in Christ, it is crucial to have someone help us who has already been down this path.

3. First Century Rabbi/Disciple Model:

- Discipleship begins around age 13- 15.
- The discipleship process lasts 15-17 years as an individual matures.
- At age 30 – a disciple is now ready to become a teacher and will begin to take on their own disciples.

- See **Luke 3:23** – Jesus was thirty years old when he began his ministry. He is following the cultural model, and those in the culture understand what he is doing.

- What is our vision of Jesus’ disciples? How do we picture them in our minds? How have we been affected by art?
 - Culturally, the disciples are teenagers – we tend to superimpose an image of an older man – 50s, 60s, or 70s.
- Peter is the oldest disciple – older than 20
 - See **Matthew 17:27** – the story of the Temple tax.
 - See **Exodus 30:13-14** – each male over the age of twenty.
- John is the youngest. The youngest guest at a Passover sits at the right of the eldest guest – the guest of honor – which was Jesus. See **John 13:23**

4. Being/Becoming a Disciple of Jesus –

- Goal is to be just like Jesus.
- We are formed through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit – **2 Corinthians 3:18**.
- We need a teacher or guide who has been down the path themselves and can help us navigate our walk.
- We learn to “walk as Jesus walked” – a Path of Life – in our everyday decisions and interactions with others - **1 John 2:6**.
- We learn to trust God as Jesus trusted his Father. We adopt the faith OF Jesus instead of having faith IN Jesus.
 - Jesus had faith that forgiveness was the path to peace.
 - Jesus had faith in God that his

5. Why is it so essential to Make Disciples of Jesus:

- An authentic disciple of Jesus is like a rock that cannot be moved and does not waiver.
- The world does not like someone who is just like Jesus.
- The mere presence of a transformed disciple of Jesus affects the world for goodness.

6. Understanding Baptism in the Process of Making a Disciple

- The Greek word has a broad semantic range, and proper translation depends on the context of the sentence.
- Baptize can denote short-term or long-term.
 - In the **short-term**, the word can mean “to dip” or, as we use it, for the sacrament of Baptism.
 - In the **long-term**, the word can mean “to immerse” as well as “to dye” as in clothes or “to pickle” as in a vegetable.
- Becoming a disciple is a long-term process. Baptizing supports making a disciple and would better be translated into immersion.
- A long-term immersion into the reality of God and the Holy Spirit leads to a permanent change in an individual.