

# Each One Teach One Discipleship Lessons

## Part Three:

### FAITH THAT LIFTS UP

#### LESSON NINE:

## The DISCIPLING LIFE

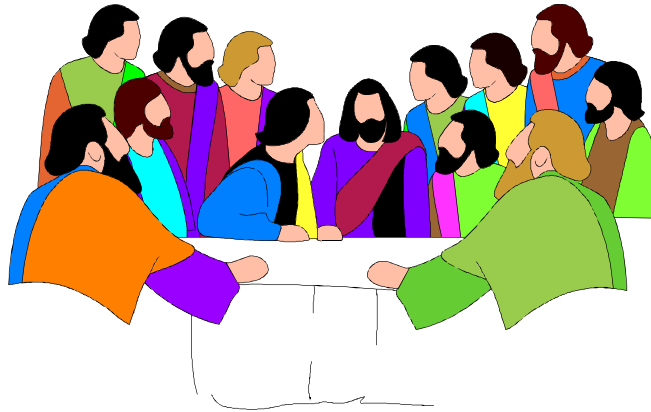
Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This passage is often referred to as the "Great Commission" of Christ to the Apostles. In every generation since the first century, Christian groups have concluded that this *commission* also applies to themselves. But many have failed to notice that it doesn't say to just go and "scatter the seed" of the Good News about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It specifically says to "make *disciples*" as you go.

A *disciple* is someone who:

1. Is **dedicated** to a particular teacher
2. Wants to **learn all** that teacher has to teach
3. Is willing to **assist in spreading** that teaching to others



A disciple is **not** just someone who believes the story **about** Jesus. A disciple is a **learner** or a **pupil** of Jesus. The command in Matthew 28 says to teach these disciples "everything" Jesus taught the original 12 Apostles!

[John 8:31-32]

... Jesus said, "If you \_\_\_\_\_, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ will set you free."

\*\*\*\*\* There is a lot of confusion about just what **is** the *Gospel*. The word *gospel* itself means *good news*. But what is included in that good news? Is it **just** that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins, and that you therefore get to escape hell? **No**- that **is** the central part of the Good News, but it is not the whole story.

[II Cor 5:19-20]

... God was \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

\*\*\*\*\* It says here that God is reconciling the **world** to himself! In the beginning God created man and established for him a **way of life** that is **very good**, including an intimate relationship with our Creator. The scriptures describe the principles of this **way of life**. These principles apply first in the physical life of man, and would lead to a lifetime of blessing for individuals, families and nations. But these principles are also eternal, and will apply to our relationships with God and with others beyond this life. The basic principle underlying all the rest is complete obedience to the will and authority of God. Man, starting with Adam, has rejected the authority of God. As a result, we have lost that **way of life** and that relationship with God that would lead to peace and happiness **now** and in the **world to come**.

The first part of the Good News is that God has provided the way back to reconciliation with Him through the blood of His Son. But the Good News doesn't stop there. Once reconciled, we have access to the Holy Spirit that empowers us to live that **way of life** that God intended from the beginning. And that same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise us from the dead to an eternal **way of life**, and relationship with Him, that God also intended from the beginning.

A disciple is one who believes the Gospel... the **Good News**... about what Jesus did for him. But a disciple is also one who then goes on to:

1. **Learn** the *good news* of the **way of life** Jesus taught.
2. **Walk** in the **light** of that *good news* through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Cultivate** the **relationship** with Jesus promised in the *Good News*.

\*\*\*\*\* Perhaps you have thought that the job of spreading the news about Jesus and teaching what He taught is the job of only a select group of Christians. If you had lived in the first century, perhaps you would have thought that this was particularly the job of the Apostles, since they were still alive:

[Acts 8:1-4]

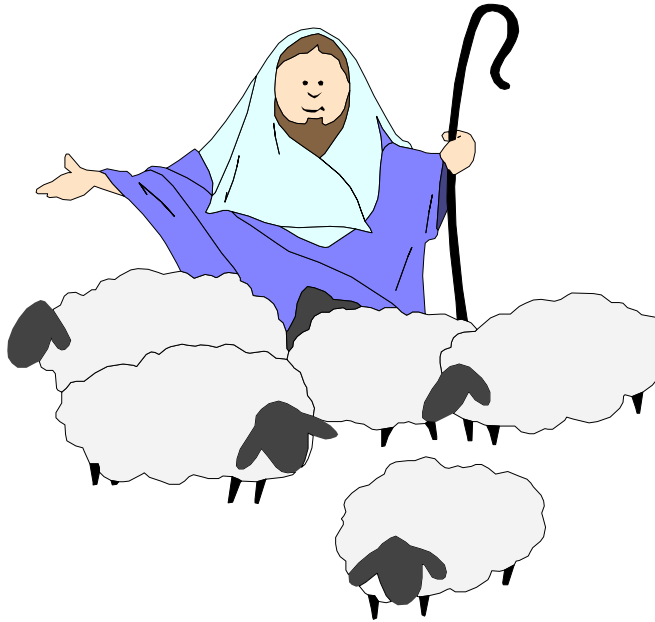
And Saul was there, giving approval to his [Stephen's] death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered \_\_\_\_\_ wherever they went.

\*\*\*\*\* Eventually, the Apostles **did** preach the gospel throughout the world. But the first extensive spreading of the gospel beyond Jerusalem was done, not by the Apostles, but by the persecuted, scattered average Christians! The Church certainly does need specialized "evangelists" who can reach large groups of people, and specialized "pastors" (shepherds) to care for God's sheep.

But consider this: how does a shepherd get more sheep?

Does he "create" them?

No... **SHEEP make more SHEEP!**



It is a recognized fact among Christian researchers of many denominations that more people are first drawn to want to know more about the Gospel through contact with friends and family, rather than through the preaching of "professionals."

If you lived in the first century in the time of Jesus, and were a leper, everyone would be afraid to touch you. For if they did, they might be infected with your disease of leprosy, and become a leper themselves.

But Jesus was not afraid to touch lepers, for He could cleanse them from their leprosy! And those who were thus healed sometimes became His disciples.

If Jesus **has** touched **you**, and cleansed you of your sins, you are now His disciple. Wouldn't it be great if you could "touch" those around you with the Gospel, and "infect" them with the desire to follow Jesus?!

Would you like to have an "infectious" faith?

In the next three lessons we will consider how **you** can have Faith that is "catching."

## **REVIEW:**

1. A *disciple* is a **learner**.
2. The **fruit** of sharing the Good News will be **new disciples** for Jesus.
3. It is one **job** of every *disciple* to make **more disciples**.

4. *Disciples* will **learn** what Jesus taught.
5. *Disciples* will **walk** in the **light** as Jesus walked.
6. *Disciples* will have an intimate **relationship** with Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**LESSON NINE MEMORY VERSE**

**John 8:31B-32**

**...Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching,  
you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth,  
And the truth will set you free.**

*Note:* The reference above to verse "31B" means the second half of the verse. The first half of the verse mentions that Jesus made this statement to some Jews who believed him. But it is obvious that the statement can apply to anyone. So in our memory work we are focusing on the second half of the verse.

**Previous Memory Verses:** Now that we are once again in a new four-lesson section, the memory verses from the previous eight lessons will no longer be included on the review pages. But you are encouraged to continue to occasionally review them on your own to keep them fresh in your mind.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the difference between knowing **about** Jesus and being His **disciple**?

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2. What does "reconcile" mean to you?

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3. Have there been changes in your "way of life" since you began learning about Jesus?

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4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our new way of life?

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5. **Why not** just leave the "Great Commission" to the TV evangelists?

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6. Write John 8:31B-32 from memory:

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, \_\_\_\_\_"

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7. Fill in the blanks in these scripture quotes from past lessons:

And without \_\_\_\_\_ it is impossible to please God.

... faith without deeds is \_\_\_\_\_.

He who does not have \_\_\_\_\_ does not have life.

The peace of God, which transcends all \_\_\_\_\_ will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.