

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 15: Will You Choose to Obey?

269 times in the New Testament the word “disciple” is used. As we’ve said that word means three things. 1: A disciple is a learner, 2: A disciple is a follower, and 3: A disciple is a reproducer. So why aren’t churches and individual followers of Jesus making disciples who are making disciples?

Over the years as I have trained people and churches around the country, I’ve heard a handful of excuses. “I’m just too busy.” Let me ask you a question. Are you going to stand before the Lord someday when he asks you where your disciples are and look at him and say, “Lord I was just too busy”? I don’t think so. “I’m not called.” Dear friends, I’m not called either. I’m commanded to make disciples. We are all commanded. “It’s just for the pros, the paid clergy.” Wrong again. “I don’t know enough to disciple someone.” Wrong again. “I don’t want to be a fanatic. I don’t want to be too involved in this Christianity stuff.” If you are a follower of Christ, you have to get involved.

I also believe that most pastors don’t disciple because they haven’t been discipled. The two seminaries I went to never offered one course on disciple-making. Most pastors just see disciple-making as another item on a long list of responsibilities they have. They are weary already and just don’t want to take another thing on. In the city where I live, disciple-making is kind of like backing up a biblical theological dump truck, dumping out all the information and pulling off and saying, “we discipled you.” It is an information dump that is not making disciples who are making disciples who are making disciples. So, here’s the bottom line of this whole subject in Matthew 28: Jesus said “go and make disciples who make disciples who make disciples” and so therefore what this really all comes down to is one issue. Do I believe what Jesus said or not, and am I willing to do what he said or not? It’s a matter of obedience. The Scripture says in John 14:15 (Jesus himself said) “If you love me, do what I tell you to do.” So, the question is, will you choose to obey Him? You think about that.

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