Homeroom 2021 – Wk 2 – The Disciple

**Probably one of the more misunderstood things in scripture – not prophecy – but discipleship. Today - what is a disciple.**

**Matthew 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. (Mount of olives) 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. (They came and worshiped… with questions about Jesus, the resurrection, life, the world, the plan of God, what to do next?)**

**Just like today some of you worship an some… w/ questions.**

**(After the chitchat, worship songs, and announcements… Jesus steps up) 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (I am in charge not just heaven – but everything on earth, you - not only in charge of eternity – But I am in charge of right now. I am the link.) 19 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, (baptizo - ancient clothes dye – goes in one color comes out looking different – same cloth diff look – we are baptized into Christ, we are red - it now defines who we are not other things) 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Disciples are teachable apply it – this is what sets us apart as disciples) And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

**This is what we are to be about! Make disciples – it is an imperative – it not a request. It’s a command.**

**All authority has been given to me and I want you to make disciples.**

**This is the mission: given by Jesus is to take the good news to all**

**What is a disciple? Mathetes (math-ay-tes) learner, pupil, follower! A disciple of Jesus learns and follows the steps of Jesus.**

**\*\* A Disciple – takes the next step of obedience in their walk with God**

**Follows Jesus – increasing in our discipleship to Jesus. We hear/ we read / we follow. How we do this is basically the NT.**

**Marked by obedience (Jo 14:15, 21, 23, 15:10, 1 Jo 2:3, 5:3, 2 Jo 1:6)**

**Identified by compassion (1 Cor 13:1-3, John 13:35)**

**A disciple is person of obedience to Jesus and a person of compassion to the world.**

**\* A Discipler – helps others take the next step in their walk with God**

**Help others to grow and follow Jesus (it never ends)**

**To walk with someone to become a mature growing disciple.**

**A disciple asks himself – How do I take this and share it with another? No greater calling or command than - to help another grow in Jesus**

**When you truly become a Christian you become a disciple – the question is are you a good one?**

**But I am new - or I don’t know much. You know enough – to start.**

**Paul in Acts 9 and expressed again in Galatians 1 – had a radical transformation with Jesus. But no one would talk to him – they were afraid of him.**

**But look what he did – a new believers. Acts 9:19b Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful (his preaching, confidence and influence) and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.**

**How?? He started and he trust Jesus. He moved on what he knew. Warts and all. (Gal 1:17 – he went to JCU in the desert – he studied and grew and put it to action) A disciple – he started…**

**Are we making Pharisee or disciples?**

**Many have made front of the line people models for disciples - but instead of making disciples they are making Pharisees.**

**A group Jesus had open and frequent dialog with – The Pharisees**

**People who loved goodness, desired to please God, but truly went bad**

**They loved God’s word, discipline, respected, uncompromised in a culture when it was hard to follow God - here come Jesus who calls them snakes, blind men and sons of the devil…**

**While they were running around impressing people, they were depressing Jesus. People said, “Wow!” Jesus said, “Woe!” - Why?**

**What a Pharisee looks like – Read Matthew 23:1-33 this week.**

**\*\* Pharisees are about making clones (look, act, talk, think, dress like)**

**We are not making Christian robots – little Ted’s / Mini me’s**

**We want “mini Christ’s” = Christian – “little Christ”**

**\*\* Pharisees focus on bible knowledge (reading / memorizing the bible)**

**It is actually possible to be a disciple and not read the Bible.**

**Not available in 57% of world languages / 1/3 no access**

**The emphasis is to obey what you do know and start now.**

**1 Cor 8:1 - knowledge puffs up while love builds up.**

**Discipleship is not necessarily meeting at Starbucks to read a book. It might be working on a car together – yard work – playing music… as you lead them to the next step with Jesus.**

**\*\* Pharisees concentrate on church membership**

**Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations… (Not make converts, Christians, good people, or church people… many churches have trivialized our mission)**

**However, it is impossible to fulfill the mission of a disciple without being a part of one. We are called to be – Ekklesia!**

**It is key to your long-term growth - But going to church does not mean you’re a disciple of Jesus!**

**\*\* Pharisees like to emphasis spiritual gifts or abilities**

**These are gifts given to the church to help disciples.**

**Matthew 7:21-23 – I never knew you…**

**But many have made leadership development discipleship – Bible the makes a distinction. Do not gift project…**

**\*\* Pharisees focus on guilt and shame as motivators**

**We lead disciple with patience and care**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.**

**How do you know if you are a Pharisee making more Pharisee?**

**Disciple says look like Jesus - Pharisee says look like me or them**

**Disciple says pursue one thing (Jesus) - Pharisee says pursue these things (do these)**

**Acts 9:26 When he (Paul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. (Barnabas walked with Paul off and on 13 years and then traveled with him a few more)**

**Discipleship takes time, there is not a crash course on following Jesus. Walking with the scary people…**

**A Discipler helps others take the next step in their walk w/ God**

**Making Disciples: How to help people take the next step…**

1. **Ask - What in the Bible have you been reading?**

**This helps to hold them accountable to their personal growth.**

**This is not about how much – but are you reading it at all?**

**2 Peter 3:18 But grow (takes time) in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.**

**Spiritual growth is not a linear line - more like a meandering path. It is not the same process for everyone. Like a funnel - you can’t jam everything down the same hole.**

**Focus on the life and character of Jesus**

**Model humility / compassion / meekness / kindness**

**What is your next step?**

1. **Ask - What had God been speaking to you about?**

**In the word (in the Bible) and in your heart (in prayer)**

**This helps to identify what Jesus is saying to them.**

**Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

**Focus on nurturing intimacy with God and serving others**

**Modeling prayer and a pace in life that gives room for the HS**

**What is your next step?**

1. **Ask – What is God leading you to do right now?**

**This helps to identify what Jesus is asking of them.**

**To forgive someone, to serve, to speak out, to break up**

**Focus on obeying what they do know about Jesus.**

**What is your next step?**

1. **Ask – how do you best connect with Jesus right now?**

**Help them to relate to God in their own unique way**

**Understand God & cross are unchanging, but we are different.**

**No two personal relationships with my kids are exactly alike.**

**I relate to and connect to each differently. Explain…**

**The bible house rules (compassion & purity) are for everybody, but we all relate to Dad differently and connect to him differently.**

**The disciples all connected to Jesus in different ways – with diff skills, abilities, interests and with different personalities.**

**Don't let spiritual disciplines become rules placed on people.**

**When spiritual tools become spiritual rules, they produce pride rather than disciples (how many verses have you memorized?)**

**(after had finished ministering) Mark 6:31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, (life is busy) he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. (come w/ me)**

**Focus on doing more of what keeps you growing**

**What is your next step?**

**God did not create us all to worship Him in the same way.**

**Some of you connect to God w/ music, books, nature, building things, serving, journaling - How do you connect with God? DO more of that!**

1. **Ask – How are your Christian relationships?**

**Help them to understand that growth is never a solo mission.**

**Ekklesia the church – to gather to assemble – 42 one another’s**

**Pro 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.**

**Question – how many disciples did Jesus have? More than 12**

**Jesus had 1000’s who showed up (Lu 9) – hundreds of disciples (Jo 6) 120 were very close (Acts 1) 72 were commissioned (Lu 10:1) 12 were made apostles (Lu 6:12-16) – 3 he mentored (Lu 8:51) They were never sent out alone.**

**The Briquettes Principle: They don’t get white hot isolated. \* Lighter fluid won’t make them white hot. When they are together, they transfer heat and get white hot – then they are spread out. Stones absorb heat (keep it to themselves) – just like hard-headed disciples who refuse to get together or listen to others.**

**Focus on the importance of being in community**

**What is your next step?**

1. **Ask – Who are you discipling?**

**It is all about disciples who make disciples who make disciples… obey what you know. When we do this… we grow.**

**Well, I am not a good disciple – I’m not ready - I fail – well, show people how to fall and get back up – that is discipleship.**

**Any runners - 100 meter race – Bang – Go! Life is a race!**

**1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (How do we run? That’s how fast we run – but it’s not about being first for ourself) 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, (grass wreath)**

**What are you running for, how are you preparing?**

**Life is a dash – the space between out birth and death.**

**Finish line of life – 1/3 of life we sleep – 13 yrs at work – 1 yr getting ready (2yrs in restroom) – 8 yrs consuming entertainment (70% of life in front of digital media) 4 yrs eating – 3yrs on vacation - what’s left? Only a few steps left. \*\* We spend our life trying to get more tickets…**

**There has got to be more than running for this! There is…**

**They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. (an eternal price - Eternal crown)**

**What is our prize? It’s not money, popularity, success.**

**You can be poor in this life - and be rich inside! The life of a disciple of Jesus looks at all those things thru diff eyes and sees opportunities to be like Jesus and make disciples.**

**That reward is not just heaven… it’s a crown – crown of souls – people - but that crown is not for us – it is a crown that we present to Jesus…**

**When I get there, he’s going to look over my shoulder and ask, “Who’d you bring?”**

**26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; (NLT – purpose in every step - every day - Intentionally – on mission!) I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. (“shadow boxing” swinging at nothing, practice – messing around) 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave (disciple myself - like an athlete) so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

**This race is not just about going to heaven ~ This race is about 1 more person to live forever – 1 more family set free – 1 more addict delivered – 1 more to know the Jesus! 1 more…**

**Disciples - We are not called to live a long life – a satisfied life – a safe life – but a life of radical obedience and faith to Jesus Christ!**

**Two Big Questions:**

**\*\*Who are you discipling? – if you’re not your out of the will of God.**

**\*\*Are you making disciples or Pharisees?**

**There is no conflict here – the practice field and the locker room – But when you leave here – you run onto the field - that is where the real conflict happens. Jesus says - It is easy to identify with me in the safe place, in the huddle – but will you declare me out there?**

**Jesus says Go - to a world that does like me, does not accept me, and you represent me. Be my disciple. Declare me and make more who follow me.**

**A surgeon to operate on you with straight A’s. I want to know if you have done it and how the others turned out. I want someone who not only knows… but also practices what they know. The world needs not just those who know the bible – but disciples who practice what they know.**

**Do we have disciples here – who will practice what they believe – who will break the huddle and run to the field and represent Jesus.**

**We are at the line – life is a dash. Ready – Set - Go! Make! Disciples!**

**Don Carter – The founding owner of the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Sidekicks. In Dallas he has owned banks, trucking firms, hotels, rodeo arenas, and cattle ranches. He is kind of a big deal… (I was his guest to a Mavericks game) We rode with him in his truck – in covered private premier parking in front of an elevator that took him to the suite. (Not because of who I am but because of who he was… they don’t; know me – they know him – but because they know him… I get what was his attributed to me.)**

**Taken to a buffet line where the players and their wives ate for free (It was because of who I was with… with me you get my access.)**

**We were escorted down to the front row on the court… I pulled out my phone wo take a selfie and whop was behind me… Troy Aikman. I had better seats than Troy… (Not because of who I am – but because of who I was with – because of who he is – your proximity to me gave you access to people you might not know)**

**Halfway through we were taken to his personal suite to eat and finish the game – and then escorted to his truck out a private exit, past the crowd and lines and back to his house before we knew it. (all of that happened because we were with him)**

**Jesus says be my disciples and you’re with me, with all the rights and privileges that belong to me – you get to piggyback on me.**