CLA Camp Hill, PA Teacher – Jim Hoffman

Based on the "NEXT" booklet by Daniel McNaughton and Shane Wilson



Dictionary.com

Thesaurus.com

- (initial capital letter) a member of the Disciples of Christ.
- a person who is a pupil or an adherent of the doctrines of another; follower:
 - a disciple of Freud.

verb (used with object), dis·ci·pled, dis·ci·pling.

 Archaic. to convert into a disciple.

2. Obsolete. to teach; train.

According to the "NEXT" book, these are the 7 Attributes of Discipleship

- Attribute #1 Learning to Be With Jesus (Matt. 4:19)
- Attribute #2 Learning to Listen (Matt. 4:23)
- Attribute #3 Learning to Heal (Matt. 4:23-24)
- Attribute #4 Learning to Influence (Matt. 5:13-16)
- Attribute #5 Learning to Love (Matt. 5:43-45)
- Attribute #6 Learning to Pray (Matt. 6:5-15)
- Attribute #7 Learning to Manage (Matt. 6:19-24)

• Eph 5:10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. 13 But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, 14 for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."



"If conversion is the moment of awakening to the reality of God, discipleship is the effort we make to stay awake. The real labor is to remember, to attend to the presence of God. In fact, to come awake. Still more, to remain awake."

C.S.Lewis



What is the cause of the recent "buzz" about discipleship?



• I have heard more "buzz" about discipleship over the last 5 years than I heard over the previous 35 of my Christian life.

• Could it be a reaction to some false teaching that would allow for people to receive Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord?

 There has been a running debate regarding this – can one have Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord?



- So our first stop on our journey towards discipleship is answering the question – "<u>Am I saved</u>?".
- John 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 <u>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who</u> <u>believed in his name, he gave the right to become children</u> <u>of God</u>— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



 Rom 10:9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

 1st John 5:1 <u>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ</u> <u>has become a child of God</u>. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. 2 We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments.



 1st John 2:3 <u>And we can be sure that we know him if we</u> <u>obey his commandments</u>. 4 If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.

• The Apostle Paul tells us enough in Romans 7 to inform us that none of us, saved or lost, is without sin.

• So this verse is not about perfect obedience, but about consistent attempts to align our lives with His word.



 1st John 3:9 <u>Those who have been born into God's family do</u> <u>not make a practice of sinning</u>, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God.

 Again, the evidence here is not a sinless life, but about the general tenor (course) of our lives.

• We can't continue in sin because the Holy Spirit will not allow us to do so.



- 1st John 3:14 <u>If we love our brothers and sisters who are</u> <u>believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life</u>. But a person who has no love is still dead.
- This one is solid evidence, but a bit more subjective than the first two –
- John 13:34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 <u>Your love for one another will prove to the</u> world that you are my disciples."

• So, if there is evidence in your life that you are saved, then what about this "discipleship" thing?

• Matthew records Jesus' great commission to go and make disciples, not converts.

 I believe this to be true – <u>in the bible, there is no</u> <u>meaningful difference between being saved, and being a</u> <u>disciple</u>.



- Acts 14:21 After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many <u>disciples</u>, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, 22 where they strengthened the <u>believers</u>.
- Acts 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the <u>disciples</u>, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a <u>disciple</u>. (NIV) Same Greek word translated as

ame Greek word translated as "disciple" and as "believer".

 Acts 9:26 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the <u>believers</u>, but they were all afraid of bim. They did not believe he had truly become a <u>believer</u>! (NLT)

"only the believer is obedient, and only those who are obedient believe"

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



• So as we go through this series I suspect what we are really talking about in 2017 as discipleship is really what the Bible calls "sanctification". (Bonhoeffer would agree)

• John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

 1st Thes 1:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



 Sanctification is both initial and complete, and it is also progressive – wait, what?

 1st Cor 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But <u>you</u> <u>were washed</u>, <u>you were sanctified</u>, <u>you were justified</u> in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

 Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those <u>who are being sanctified</u>.



According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism (Q. 35), sanctification is "the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness." It is a continuing change worked by God in us, freeing us from sinful habits and forming in us Christ-like affections, dispositions, and virtues. It does not mean that sin is instantly eradicated, but it is also more than a counteraction, in which sin is merely restrained or repressed without being progressively destroyed. Sanctification is a real transformation, not just the appearance of one.

• Are there varying levels of obedience to Christ?

• Yes, but one who claims to know Jesus and makes no effort to obey Him is not a Christian.

 The kind of obedience John notes is not perfect obedience to the moral codes and laws of God, but rather an imperfect obedience that flows from a desire to obey.



- The word "discipleship" does not appear in the Bible it would seem to be a foreign concept to the New Testament writers that one could be a Christian without being a disciple.
- Discipleship is a combination of conversion <u>and</u> sanctification.
- Matt 28:18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and <u>make</u> <u>disciples</u> of all the nations, <u>baptizing them</u> in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 <u>Teach these new</u> <u>disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.</u> And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The word "discipleship" does not appear in the Bible because "sanctification" does.

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