



EYEWITNESS: PART 1

SEEING JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Growth Group Questions **May 18, 2025** **“How Do We Make Disciples?”**

CONTEXT

This is the only post-resurrection appearance of Jesus that Matthew includes besides Jesus’ conversation with the women on the day of the resurrection when he instructs them to go and tell the disciples to meet him in Galilee. The disciples are now back in Galilee a week or so after the resurrection. Their final commissioning takes place at “the mountain” which reminds us of other teaching moments on mountaintops like the Sermon on the Mount, as well as the transfiguration of Jesus.

We are told that some worshipped and some doubted. It is unclear if this is only talking about the eleven apostles or if others were present. This brief mention of doubt acknowledges the human struggle to fully grasp the miraculous nature of Jesus’ resurrection and foreshadows the need for Jesus’ assurance and commission. It also points to the Jewish understanding that the only person to be worshiped was God. To worship Jesus was to imply that he was God, and this was probably not an easy concept for everyone to accept.

To “make disciples of all nations” will require people to leave their homelands, but Jesus’ main focus seems to be around disciples replicating themselves wherever they are. Disciples make disciples. The verb “make disciples” also suggests a kind of evangelism that does not stop after someone makes a profession of faith.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus does not say “go make converts,” but instead places his focus on disciples. It is God who brings about the conversion of our hearts and our task is to help others along the way of discipleship.

Verses 18–20 link back to Matthew 1:23 to remind the readers that Jesus is “Immanuel – God with us.” Matthew closes his Gospel with Jesus’ promise to be spiritually present with his followers until the end of this age when he returns. John 13-17 describes how Jesus had explained this in much more detail as the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Numbers 6:22-27

²² The LORD said to Moses, ²³ “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ “The LORD bless you
and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

²⁷ “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

1 Corinthians 3:1-7

¹ Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴ For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings? ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

Matthew 1:22-23

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”^[a] (which means “God with us”).

Dallas Willard

"A disciple is a person who has decided that the most important thing in their life is to learn how to do what Jesus said to do. A disciple is not a person who has things under control or knows a lot of things. Disciples are simply people who are constantly revising their affairs to carry through on their decision to follow Jesus."

QUESTIONS

1. How would you define a disciple of Jesus?
2. Pastor Paul asked the question: “Is there a difference between being a Christian and being a disciple of Jesus?” How would you answer that question? If you see a difference between being a Christian and being a disciple of Jesus, what is the difference?
3. What Bible verses help you to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?
4. Why is discipleship important?
5. Pastor Paul said that Matthew 28:19-20 contains the four things that make our faith in Jesus “sticky”: (1) identity, (2) community, (3) life-long apprenticeship, and (4) we are never alone. If you were asked to explain these four things to someone else, what would you say? How do these four things give our faith “stickiness”?
6. In Matthew 28:19, we are told to “go and make disciples.” What does it mean to “make disciples”?
7. What are some ways in which each of us can go and make disciples?
8. As you read through the quote from Dallas Willard and heard Pastor Paul discuss it in the sermon, what thing or things struck you the most about his definition of a disciple?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Is there something in your life that you need to “revise” so that you can be more focused on Jesus?
2. Where can you “show up” for someone else this week?