

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of August 2019

Making Disciples

(Matthew 28:19-20)

Sunday, August 4, 2019

This mandate was given for all churches of all times, so it includes every one of us who is a part of congregations.

Since we all agree that we are supposed to be carrying out the Great Commission, why aren't we doing more about it?

We may talk a good game, but our actions speak louder than our words. Do we really care about lost people? Do we sincerely believe that knowing Christ is the best way to live and the only way to die? Are we convinced that everyone we know, without exception, needs to find the forgiveness, friendship, life and leadership Jesus offers? Do we truly believe in Hell and that our friends and family members will end up there if they don't trust in Christ before they die? Do we really believe that? If so, are we willing to take risks to warn them? And are we will to invest our time and energy in developing churches that will attract, challenge, and teach them to step across the line of faith?

Jesus has commissioned us to become persuasive communicators of His love and truth, that is, He asks us to become contagious Christians that will do everything necessary, through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, to bring more and more people to Him. The question is, "do you really want to impact people's lives?"

Sunday, August 11, 2019

I. Why does the Church exist?

Why does the church exist? To put it another way, what is its ultimate purpose? Why has God left it in the world in the first place? The Bible has not left us without the answer. Jesus Christ makes it clear in the Great Commission, the Key Terms – Go, send, baptize, teach, preach, witness, disciple, power, all nations, end of the age – all need clarification for the serious follower of Christ in this twenty-first century.

Earlier He said in the presence of the disciples, and more specifically to Peter, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not over power it" [Matt. 16:18].

Now prior to leaving them to carry on His work, and to fulfill his prophetic words, He tells them what they must do. Make disciples of all the Nations! The command is clear, concise, and comprehensive. First, they must wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:4-5], then, they would “receive power” and become His witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, Samaria and even to the remotest of the earth [Acts 1:8].

The disciples understood! The book of Acts is a precise record of the disciples’ activities and accomplishments as they seriously and systematically carried out Jesus Christ’s marching orders.

They were to make disciples. In verse 19, the word “go” in the original text is a participle, along with two additional participles in verse 20, “baptizing and teaching.” But all of these verbal forms imply action and spell out in greater detail what Christ wanted them to do.

In essence, Jesus is saying, “as you go, make disciples, baptize these disciples, and teach them to do what I have taught you.” In essence, Jesus is saying, “go everywhere and win men to Christ [that is make Christians], and then baptize them and teach these Christians the truth that I have taught you.”

Sunday, August 18, 2019

II. Why does the Church exist as a gathered community?

Jesus spent much of His time on earth with twelve men who He’d carefully selected and trained, not in a formal educational setting, but in a “field type,” real life learning situation. They associated with Him in His ministry and they saw Him demonstrate with His own life how to work among men. He eventually sent them out on their own and then carefully helped them to learn from their successes and failures.

Sunday, August 25, 2019

III. Make Disciples!

Finally, after these three and one-half years, Jesus had basically accomplished two major goals in terms of strategy. He had saturated the minds of the multitudes with His teachings, and prepared a small group of men in-depth to enter into His labor and bring in the harvest [John 4:35-38].

After His death and resurrection, (His primary purpose is coming into this world), He gave His followers a great evangelistic commission, “Make Disciples!”

They did! They built immediately upon the foundations which Jesus laid. They began in Jerusalem where He taught, died, and rose again. Anywhere and

everywhere they went in the temple, from house to house before the Jewish council, in the synagogues and on the streets.

Hearts were prepared. The Holy Spirit worked in power! The harvest was great! So great the Jewish leaders were threatened and responded with hatred and counteraction. But this response only served to fulfill the ultimate plan of God, for believers were scattered everywhere throughout Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the then known world.

Everywhere they carried the message of Christ's death and resurrection and that He truly was the promised Messiah.

Both Jews and Gentiles entered the family of God after the church expanded its outreach and its impact upon the world.

Making disciples is the top priority of the church. When you embrace the truth of God's word, it's pretty difficult to discount its call to reach lost people. The problem is that while many of us in our churches that have a rich heritage and a strong reputation for evangelism, in many cases, little is being done. To be honest, in most ministries, very few lost people are being reached for Christ.

Yet the words of Jesus in the Great Commission are constantly in our minds, "Go and Make Disciples!"