

Soldiers for Christ

“Disciples Making Disciples”

Whom shall I send – Who Shall go for us? Isaiah heard a voice in the temple. And, responded – “Here I am Lord, send me”. From Abraham to Moses at the burning bush to Paul on the Road to Damascus, received their call to ministry in different ways. Peter and Andrew received their call directly from Jesus who called out to them, saying “follow me and I will make you fisher of men”. Like these examples, we have all been called to ministry and have received are calling in different ways. But, all have been called for the same mission – ““go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation””.

We should be reminded that we are all the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do. Each one has received a gift to use for serving others as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Now, all are not called for the same role. Some are called to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers. But, each has the duty of equipping saints for the work of ministry for God’s mission. Again, what is that mission? We are to “go into the world and preach the Good News to all creation”. This mission is not easy. There are a large number of areas to concern oneself with. These areas included but are not limited to Community, Prayer, Worship, Sacraments, Tithing, Fasting, Service, Body, and most importantly staying connected to God through his Word. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of believers have the discipline required for God’s Mission.

A person called to ministry must develop disciples - “equipping these saints for the work of ministry”. Developing disciples must be a process of gradual movement through stages just as Jesus developed his disciples. Unfortunately, in most cases, disciple making becomes a program

designed to rapidly make disciples as if they were on a conveyor belt. Jesus didn't rapidly create his disciples. Jesus moved his disciples through stages. These stages included Pre-discipline (Inquiry), Developmental (Living Example – I do, you watch), Provocative Teacher (I do, You Help), Supportive Coach (You do, I Help), the Ultimate Delegator (You Do, I Watch). Developing disciples is similar to a child moving from infancy to Adulthood where the pace of movement from childhood to adulthood can greatly influence the quality of a person as it does for a disciple.

A person may think, "I only have to get them to adulthood. I can do that". Not true. Disciple making (Teaching, Coaching, Mentoring, Leading) is a lifetime process. And, when done correctly, the more experienced followers will share with new believers the commitment, understanding, and basic skills to know and obey Jesus Christ as Lord. Disciple making is a great and honorable task assigned to each of us knowing we are the link to the next generation and generations to come. So, we must practice the handoff, so the legacy established by Jesus lives on in all the hearts of those who live now and those who are to come.

If done correctly, disciples will preach the Word with great patience and careful instruction and share their individual gifts while fishing for people desiring to leave all immediately without looking back to follow Christ and do God's will for the service of God's Kingdom. They will mentor and teach the lost to first, Love the Lord with all their hearts, mind, soul, and strength and then Love their neighbor as themselves. They will not worry about eating, drinking, or clothing but will seek first the kingdom and righteousness of God knowing all will be provided. They will trust in God as their refugee and fortress taking Shelter in God's wings. They will tithe, setting aside a tenth each year of all their produce and serve humbly in love, as faithful stewards of God's grace. They will set the example as Jesus did by serving (the hungry,

the sick, the imprisoned, the unclothed, the stranger); praying without ceasing; and worshiping in Spirit and in truth. A disciple will maintain accountability of their mother, brothers, and sisters while making every effort to live a life of holiness confirming their calling and election.

Jesus came near and said to his disciples - “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” So, whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord.

So, are you a disciple making disciple? If not, then humbly evaluate your weaknesses and seek out a disciple maker for assistance. Maybe, you had the misfortune of being a product of a conveyor belt program due to no fault of your own. Otherwise, review and reconfirm your commitment to God’s mission to make disciples of all nations and go in groups of two or more across the Lord’s great, diverse Harvest field of secular life remembering that you serve the Lord Christ. Leave the Old behind for the New knowing that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and will never go hungry or thirsty. Plant seeds in the name and presence of Christ leading the lost away from the wide, broad, destructive road available to all and towards the small, narrow road that leads to life which only a few will find.

May, you believe in the bread of Life knowing you are the branches of the Vine, (Jesus) - the Way, the Truth, and the Life - who is the only path to the Father. And, may your name be found in the book of life when God from his Glorious throne, harvest the fields, separating the weeds from the wheat, placing the sheep on his right for their inheritance into the Kingdom and throwing the goats on his left into the lake of fire. God Bless.