

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Community Group Study 07 Mar 2010

Introduction

Jesus commands us in this passage to make disciples. This is the core of our faith, a command from Jesus and a key part of our Christian walk.

We must allow our discipleship to change us (see Col 1:28). This discipleship, both of ourselves and our discipleship of others, needs more attention than any of the external trappings of our faith. While it is mostly invisible, it is the foundation on which everything else is built.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer challenges us to consider not just the cost of discipleship, but also the cost of non-discipleship. If we do not consciously follow Christ, we will naturally follow other masters and become disciples of the things of the world.

We must allow ourselves to be fully committed to discipleship, which is inseparable from relationship and community. We must go and make disciples in every situation and at every time.

Discussion

>>Who does the passage apply to?
>>In what ways does the world try to disciple us?
>>Our default attitude should be to "go" rather than to "stay". What are the implications of this?

Explanation

>>What is baptism?
>>How do we distinguish between the mechanisms of Christianity and true faith?
>>How do we make disciples?

Application

>>In what practical ways can we "go"?
>>How can we be good disciples?
>>What attitudes or mistaken thoughts hold us back from going out to make disciples?