



## The Case for Discipleship

- What does this song have to do with the Great Commission?
- <sup>19</sup> [e]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you [f]always, even to the end of the age."

#### Break It Down

MAKE DISCIPLES – not members, not just converts, not "get them to pray a prayer of salvation so they can go to Heaven"

A Disciple is Someone who becomes like his master; people who carry/reflect and communicate the life of Jesus, so that when others are around them, they can TELL THEY HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS!

 Historically, the church has not done a good job with this most important assignment

## Process is Even Spelled Out

- Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit – so they can experience full unity and intimacy with all aspects of God (John 17)
- But here is the MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMISSION, THAT DEFINES AND ACTIVATES EVERYTHING ELSE:
- Teaching them to obey ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU

#### This is the Great Commandment

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another." Jn 13:34

## **Refocus Our Identity**

A disciple is someone who keeps this commandment – to love like Jesus loves, and live like Jesus lived, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Holy Spirit - this is our design, our ministry, our destiny

# So, \$64 Trillion Question Is

How are disciples made? How does one become a disciple instead of just remaining a convert or a church member?

## The 4 H Journey

- Helplessness come to the end of yourself and realize that you are in over your head and you will never be enough
- Hopelessness despair sets in as you understand that all is lost and you are broken and you don't have a clue what is coming except it is not getting better, maybe worse
- Homesicknesss yearning to be somewhere safe where you can find peace and rest in Him
- Healing in that moment God's grace wraps around you like a blanket and you are home



## Judgement-free Zone?

- The Body of Christ is supposed to be the one place where the conversation begins and ends with the Great Commandment
- Doesn't mean you can't have opinions, but first you have to examine yourself with the lens of the Holy Spirit, and don't speak until your own LOGS have been extracted
- Because we all have logs, and the fact that we don't get it just proves the point

#### **CLIFFORD THE BIG RED CHURCH**



## Are We Loving a Broken World?

# The Local Church (US) Is

- Uniquely called Matthew 25:40, James 1:27
- Uniquely anointed Isaiah 61
- Uniquely Commanded Luke 10:27
- Uniquely Equipped Ephesians 3:20
- This Caring mission will not only deliver our neighbors from generational cycle of suffering, it will provide the most powerful means of introducing them to Jesus

#### Freedom to Love

- GAL 5 [a] It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. [and what does this mean?]
- <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brethren; only <u>do not turn your freedom</u> <u>into an opportunity for the flesh</u>, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

# The Power of Blessing

Romans 14 Bless those who persecute [m]you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but [n]associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to <u>anyone</u>. <sup>[o]</sup>Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

## **Release Burning Love!**

<sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but <sup>[p]</sup>leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **Be Prepared**

- In an increasingly polarized society, you are going to encounter higher levels of condemnation and rage from people who mistrust your motives or your faith
- Our willingness to love will be tested
- Plus, any lingering broken relationships could easily get worse, like David and Shimei in 2 Samuel 16
- Leave it in God's hands, our mission is to become a hunka of burning love

## Just to Be Clear

- A Disciple is someone who loves like Jesus loves, by surrendering to His live within you and letting His love flow through
  - Your motivation is changed from one of defensive condemnation of those who make you uncomfortable, to proactive blessing of them that releases His love over them
  - You literally called to become a Hunka Hunka burning, transforming, redemptive love!!!

#### Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- Iavishly blessed by God,

and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY