



Matthew 28:16-20

OUR GREATEST CALLING IN LIFE

The Greek philosopher Plato developed a system of thought that bears his name. Then he trained his young disciple Aristotle in this system of Platonic philosophy. Aristotle built on Plato's teaching and developed his own system known as Aristotelian logic. Aristotle then established schools called academies to train more disciples. This Greek discipleship system was very effective, because even after Rome conquered Greece, the Romans could not eradicate Greek influence. So while Rome wielded military power, the Greeks wielded power over the culture because well-trained Greek disciples were functioning at every level of the society. These people lived under Roman rule, but their thinking was Greek. And in the end, what people think is a lot more important and powerful than what an external power can force them to do. This helps us understand why Jesus commissioned the church to make disciples. When it's done right, the disciple becomes a follower for life because the real battle for souls is waged in the mind. A well-trained disciple can live in a foreign, hostile culture without succumbing to that culture because his mind is fixed on another world.

—Tony Evans

Matthew ends his gospel with the culmination of all that he has taught about Jesus. Jesus is the Son of David—the true King with all authority in heaven and on earth. He is the Son of Abraham—the One who will bring blessing to all the families of the earth. And He is Immanuel—the One who is with us always to the end of the age.

Jesus is both the Suffering Servant and the Sovereign Lord.

And we are His disciples, His followers, His family. We are kingdom citizens under the authority of one King, longing for the coming of His kingdom. But until that day, we are called to a great purpose.

WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP (28:16-18)

The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth."

- Jesus has all _____ (Dan. 7:13-14).
- Jesus is worthy of all _____ (Phil. 2:5-11).
- We are to worship with all our _____ (Mt. 22:36-38).

Many interpreters have spoken of these last five verses as the key to understanding Matthew's whole gospel.

—R. T. France

Doubt. Greek, *distazo*, literally "to stand in two ways" (14:31).

***Distazo** refers more to hesitation than to unbelief... Some of the disciples worshiped Jesus at once; some were less sure how to react.*

—Craig L. Blomberg

Jesus wants disciples, not just people who make professions of faith. Why? Because missions is a means to an end. What's our great end in life? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever. To worship Him. You can only worship God if you are a disciple.

—J. Ligon Duncan

Worship is the goal and the fuel of missions: Missions exists because worship doesn't. Seeking the worship of the nations is fueled by the joy of our own worship. You can't commend what you don't cherish. You can't proclaim what you don't prize.

—John Piper

WE ARE CALLED TO WITNESS (28:19-20)

Therefore make disciples of all the nations,
going
baptizing them into the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;
and behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the age.

- **Disciple-making encompasses all of one's _____.**

A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:40)

A disciple is one who is following Jesus, learning more of Him and looking more like Him every day (cf. Rom. 8:28-29; 1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 3:18).

- **Disciple-making extends to all _____.**

Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! (Psalm 96:3; cf. Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 22:27-28; Isaiah 12:4; Rev. 5:9)

- **Disciple-making entails _____.**

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, "Be reconciled to God!" (2 Cor. 5:20)

- **Disciple-making entails _____.**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

- **Disciple-making entails _____.**

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me. (Col. 1:28-29)

- **Disciple-making is empowered by _____.**

In the Greek text there is one imperative verb, "make disciples," modified by three participles, going, baptizing, and teaching.

—Robert D. Culver

Disciple. Greek, *mathetes*, from root *math*, "thought accompanied by endeavor." Thus, a learner, an adherent of a teacher, a follower.

*A man is called a **mathetes** when he binds himself to someone else in order to acquire practical and theoretical knowledge, such as an apprentice in a trade, a student of medicine, or a member of a philosophical school... It is used to indicate total attachment to someone.*

—New Intl. Dict of NT Theology

Every Christian is a disciple. Every disciple is called to make disciples. The three D's of disciple-making are deliver them, develop them, and deploy them.

—Bill Hull

Following His steps, we should walk as He walked, love as He loved, and think as He thought.

—Henry Morris

*Those who become disciples are to be baptized **into** (eis) the name of the Trinity... The preposition strongly suggests a coming-into-relationship-with or a coming-under-the-Lordship-of. It is a sign both of entrance into Messiah's covenant community and of pledged submission to his lordship.*

—D. A. Carson

The plain practical lesson of these words is the necessity of a public confession of faith in Christ.

—J. C. Ryle

Always. Literally, "the whole of every day." Christ is with us *in every single day* until His return.