

Summary

Pastor Paul challenges the congregation to move beyond simply knowing about Jesus to actively following Him and making disciples. Using Matthew 4:18-22 and Matthew 28:16-20, he explains that true discipleship involves three phases: invitation (follow me), transformation (I will make you), and multiplication (fishers of men). The sermon emphasizes that disciples are called to make other disciples, not just receive the benefits of salvation. Pastor Paul identifies three barriers to disciple-making: doubt/hesitation, indifference to reaching all nations, and feelings of isolation. He concludes with six practical steps for making disciples, emphasizing that this calling is simple and accessible to every believer, not just theologians or church leaders.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word and discuss what it means to be disciples who make disciples, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to be honest about where we are in our own discipleship journey and give us courage to step out in faith to invest in others. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation and help us to encourage one another as we seek to follow Jesus more faithfully. We pray that You would show us specific people You want us to disciple and give us wisdom for how to love and serve them well. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one skill or hobby that someone taught you, and how did having a mentor or teacher make a difference in your learning experience?

Key Verses

- Matthew 4:18-22
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Matthew 28:19-20

Questions

- What does it mean to you personally to be a 'fisher of men' rather than just a consumer of Jesus' benefits?
- Pastor Paul mentioned that some people treat Jesus like a grocery store, taking the free things but avoiding the costly commitment. How can we guard against this attitude in our own lives?
- In Matthew 28:17, we see that some disciples worshiped while others doubted. Why do you think doubt or hesitation can prevent us from making disciples?
- How does the command to make disciples of 'all nations' challenge your comfort zone? What barriers (cultural, linguistic, or personal) might you need to overcome?
- Pastor Paul emphasized that discipleship doesn't require being a theologian - the original disciples were fishermen. What fears or feelings of inadequacy might hold you back from discipling someone?
- Think about the six practical steps for making disciples that were shared. Which step feels most challenging to you and why?
- How can we balance focusing on the person versus following a program when discipling someone?
- The sermon mentioned that 'disciples make disciples.' Can you think of someone who has discipled you, and how did that relationship impact your faith journey?

Life Application

This week, spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to bring someone to mind that you could begin discipling. If God brings someone to mind, take a step of faith and reach out to them to set up a regular time to meet. Start simple - perhaps meeting for 30 minutes once a week to read Scripture together and discuss how to apply it to daily life. Remember, you don't need to be a theologian; you just need to be willing to share what Jesus is teaching you.

Key Takeaways

- True discipleship involves three phases: invitation (follow me), transformation (I will make you), and multiplication (fishers of men)
- The primary command in the Great Commission is to 'make disciples,' not just to go, teach, or baptize

- Three barriers prevent us from making disciples: doubt/hesitation, indifference to reaching all nations, and feelings of isolation
- Discipleship is simple and accessible - you don't need to be a theologian, just someone willing to share what Jesus has taught you
- Every believer should have someone they are discipling, focusing on the person rather than a program and allowing God's Word to bring the challenges

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for the reminder that You have called each of us not just to be disciples, but to make disciples. We confess that sometimes we hesitate, feel indifferent, or think we're not qualified for this calling. Help us to trust that You have equipped us through Your Holy Spirit and Your Word. Give us boldness to step out of our comfort zones and reach people who are different from us. Show us clearly who You want us to invest in, and help us to be faithful in caring for our own souls so we can pour into others. May we be a church that goes not just wide but deep, making disciples who make disciples for generations to come. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.