

Preserving the Harvest

by Scott Ingram, Sozo Ministries International

Lesson 1: Why Discipleship Matters

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” — Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)

Definition of discipleship:

“Discipleship is...the process of learning the teachings of Jesus and following after his example in obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship not only involves the process of becoming a disciple but of making other disciples through teaching and evangelism.”
(Lexham Theological Wordbook)

There is a difference between making converts and making disciples.

- Making a convert is leading someone to the choice of salvation in Jesus.
- Making a disciple is taking the saved person and helping them draw closer to the Lord; to Hear His voice; to walk in obedience to Him; to learn their identity in Christ, and leading them to fulfill the destiny God has for them in such a way that gives all the glory back to God.

The Holy Spirit is the Chief Disciple-Maker:

- The Spirit is the one who gives new life in Jesus, as He opens us to hear the Gospel — 1 Corinthians 2:12-13
- He brings conviction of sin, righteous, and judgment — John 16:8-11
- He draws us to Christ, causes us to be born again, makes us new on the inside, and places us into the family of God — John 6:44; 3:5-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 12:13

We Must Preserve the Fruit the is Given — Matthew 5:13

- Salt is a Preservative
- Before Jesus said you were the light of the world - which is evangelism - He said you are salt. Salt kills harmful bacteria, blocks out the effects of oxidation and breakdown, and preserves meats and other foods.
- We must have a mindset change to see that our responsibility is not just to harvest the fruit, but also to preserve the harvest which God gives to us.

Conclusion: If you are going to be successful in ministry, you must do all of the things we are discussing this week - prepare yourself for the harvest, pray for the harvest, find provision for the harvest, walk in the power to harvest, have the right character to become a harvester, and so much more. BUT, if you do all of those thing, but fail to do discipleship - preserving the harvest - then you fail the Great Commission of God. We must have the mindset of a disciple-maker.