

XXIV. L.E.A.D. in Biblical Perspective
Lifestyle of Evangelism and Discipleship
“Discipleship 101—Part 3”
Matthew 28:16–20
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This is our third study in this text and we’ll be looking at a couple of texts. I do have a couple of books I’d like to recommend for your further study on discipleship which are Robert E. Coleman’s book The Master Plan of Discipleship and Walter Henrichsen’s book Disciples are Made Not Born. Now let’s look at our text for this study.

Matthew 28:16–20 says [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.”*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

One of the toughest things for a preacher is the introduction. My intro for the last study is the best one I have for this one. I said that five things are going to happen when you go downhill. One is you will go faster and faster because the momentum is going to build. Two, you can’t stop. Three, you can’t change directions. Four, all the way down that hill you know this is not going to end well. Fifthly, you are praying for Divine Intervention.

People speak rightly about our culture going downhill – a death culture and a death spiral. The end of life is precarious. The safest place is precarious and that ought to be the womb. Every year we try to think of ways to present the life changing Gospel to those considering abortion and then we think how we as a people can address this as this culture would dissipate this, instead of increased momentum. We can’t change direction for its moving throughout the culture and all of life. This isn’t going to end well for this nation. What can be done but Divine intervention?

I also thought about how we can commemorate it. We have done a number of things to remember the unborn. If we were to initiate one second of silence for every life lost since Roe v Wade we would be silent for two years, a little over 23 months to have enough time to do that. How does this get turned around? It has now spread to the destruction of the sanctity of marriage, gender, sexuality and other areas.

A lady came up to with this downhill death spiral of this culture on her heart and she says to me “Pastor, what should we do?” I said to her, ‘Make disciples.’ For every Christian and every faithful church we need to stay on mission, on message and in ministry making disciples. Some are probably thinking I should have told her to pray but you don’t know how to pray for you have to be taught to pray. Make disciples. Who will find out how to pray? Shouldn’t we tell them how to think through this issue? That’s right, make disciples who have a Christian world and life view and know how to address these issues.

Let’s create a culture of life within the church where marriages are upheld, encouraged and ministered to and families are cared for as children are raised, loved and nurtured and sexuality is held in its place to initiate to recreate and procreate within the boundaries of

marriage. Yes I agree with this but how do you tell someone this? It is by making disciples. Parenting is making disciples. When you are made a disciple then you know how to make a disciple and you know how to parent. The reason we have people in the ministries that promote the sanctity of life is that someone disciplined them. When we know what it means to make disciples then we understand that we know this has to take place in order to address these issues with a Christian world and life view. Make disciples.

When Roe v Wade came the evangelical protestant church was caught napping because we did not have a true theology of life to address it and we weren't ready but thank God we are catching up. We weren't ready because we weren't discipling. Worship had become an entertainment event and no one had time for small group discipleship.

We are going on our second year with the theme L.E.A.D. – lifestyle of evangelism and discipleship. Last year we focused on evangelism and this year we're focusing on discipleship. Our lifestyle doesn't evangelize but it can open the door to it and accentuate it but evangelism is sharing the Gospel with people. This can be done personally. The church can do it and so we want a lifestyle of Gospel sharing with people plus discipleship. Jesus didn't just say 'come' He said 'Come follow Me.' Evangelism and discipleship are co-joined. God please give us wisdom on disciple making.

In this text on the Great Commission we are introduced and reminded of the lifestyle of evangelism and discipleship. I'm thankful for the ministry of Evangelism Explosion but I'm asking for 5 'e's' where everyone is evangelizing everybody everywhere every day. Each one reach one which is the lifestyle of evangelism. Out there are people who need to come to Christ. According to the Christian statistician Tom Rainer there are 135 to 145 million unbelievers in this country (US) who are unbelievers and unchurched. These are the unchurched unbelievers. Out of those unchurched unbelievers he found out that 82 percent of them would come to church if someone invited them. Out of that 82 percent, 42 percent who come to church end up coming to Christ. There are those just waiting for someone to invite them to church and have said they're likely to come. This gets me excited.

Here's the problem and this is where my heart sank. Rainer found out in his study that Christians who are churched, only 2 percent of them invite unchurched unbelievers. They will invite church people to come with them. Everyone needs to be evangelizing everybody everywhere every day and then you draw them into the body of Christ where you want to have life on life, life to life and life on lives. This is where each one be a disciple and each one make one.

This doesn't mean everyone has the gift of discipling but everybody can get engaged. I can support those who have the gift of small group discipleship by what I do in the large group and create the larger environment for it. We can all join in with the church getting this mission done of each one be one and each one make one. I counsel people constantly around issues of their life and anecdotally 90 percent of the time when I'm dealing with those who have hit the bottom in life almost all of them are disconnected from regular, prioritized worship. They are not engaged in large group worship in the church, it's just drive-by for them and there is no small group engagement where they are accountable and transparent.

Small groups are ways where people have interactive Bible study, intimate personal interaction, intercessory prayer, intentional ministry and accountability which are all marks of disciple making. These small groups also go out and do ministry together and it's amazing what happens when they do this. Most of my counseling is getting people connected to the means of grace through worship and small groups which is where we all need to be. The Gospel gets

delivered through ordinary people in ordinary means in ordinary structures that God has set up and that is what gets the marriage right, the family right, your life right. It's the Gospel discipleship that is taking place in our lives.

This Great Commission text has the imperative to make disciples and it gives us four things that have to happen when you make disciples. First you do it by 'going' and that's personal evangelism as you reach out to people. That is seeking the lost where we don't wait for people to come to us but we go to them. When they come to Christ you go to step two which is to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as you enfold them into the body of Christ. Now that they are in the body of Christ, thirdly you are to teach them to observe all that Christ has commanded by equipping them through the preaching of the Word, worship, the sacraments, which are done in the large group and then in small groups. You are equipping them to live out what they are learning. Fourthly, having been discipled they worship Him. They become worshippers. This comes out to evangelizing, enfolding, equipping and exaltation.

When this happens what happens next? There are three things that happen and this is why my response to the lady who was burdened for the lost was to make disciples. Let's start by looking at the Great Commission at work in the first place it started – Jerusalem. In Acts chapters 1 through 8 we see the Great Commission at work in Jerusalem. In Acts 9 through 12 it goes to Samaria and Judea and then to the world is in Acts 13 to 28. Let's now look in Acts 2 and take a closer look at how the Great Commission is at work in Jerusalem. The first thing we will see is Peter, the rest of the Apostles, and the 120 **going** (evangelizing) out, first to Jerusalem.

Acts 2:37–47 says [37] *Now when they heard this (the Gospel preached by Peter) they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"* [38] *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be **baptized** (enfolding) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* [39] *For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."* [40] *And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."* [41] *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls (this probably just counting the men).*

[42] *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching** (equipping) and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* [43] *And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.* [44] *And all who believed were together and had all things in common.* [45] *And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.* [46] *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,* [47] **praising God** (exalting) *and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

So here we see they are making disciples by them going/evangelizing, baptizing/enfolding, teaching/equipping and then they become worshippers as they gather at the temple mount to give praise to God as a body of believers. We see that they are growing because at the last verse we see that the Lord is adding to their number day by day. Let's not stop here but let's look at Acts 4. Persecution comes upon them.

Acts 4:1–4 says [1] *And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,* [2] *greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.* [3] *And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.* [4] *But*

many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Here we see even though persecution came they now have about five thousand men which don't count the women and children. They started with 120, went to about 3,000 men and now about 5,000 men. They added and multiplied and now this church in Jerusalem is probably around 16,000 to 18,000 people. Let's not stop here. Now let's look at Acts 6.

Acts 6:1, 7 says *[1] Now in these days (still in Jerusalem and being persecuted) when the disciples (the name for Christians) were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. [7] And the word of God continued to increase (growth), and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

So we see maturation, multiplication and mobilization and those are the three blessings that are assured when a church does discipleship, when they stay on mission, on message and in ministry. These three blessings are our takeaways from this study.

First, there is the inevitability of assured maturation. When you enfold people into the body of Christ they will be effected by the body of Christ. Rubbing shoulders with other believers is going to affect you. Is it easy to be in the church of Jesus Christ? No. I like to say the church is like a hot dog. It is unbelievably good but you don't want to watch it getting made. The church getting made, is a challenge because we're a bunch of sinners saved by grace. The reason it gets made is because maturation takes place as we fellowship, worship together, speak to one another – it's the large group womb discipleship. Then in the small group there is intimacy, interaction and ministering.

This morning a dear member of our church went to be with the Lord and immediately the spouse was surrounded by their small group. Yes the pastoral staff will be there, the elders and other members of the church but immediately their small group was there for them, when they needed it. I can't tell you how much fellowship, the sacraments and worship helps/contributes in your maturation but the small group brings the interactive Bible study right into your life with accountability and asking questions on an intimate level. That is why Jesus had the 70, 12 and 3 in discipleship.

I was in Charlotte, North Carolina and a couple comes into the church that doesn't know anyone in Charlotte. We started a small group in the pastor's class and this couple got to be a part of it. The class was about 13 weeks long and we were in about the 7th week and I got a phone call from the husband who said 'Pastor, we're not going to be there because my wife is maybe on the verge of death. They have rushed her to the hospital. Is there any way someone could help us?' I said 'Absolutely' and I called the leader of the small group. Not only did two families get over to stay with the kids but after the wife had gotten out of surgery into intensive care there were 7 women from that small group surrounding the bed praying for her. This couple didn't have family in the city but they were in a small group. Why are you not in a small group? We all need to be discipled in the context of a small group and what that brings into your life.

Not only did that woman pull through her surgery but she eventually became the director of our women's ministry at the church there in Charlotte, through the discipling that took place in that small group. The reason for this maturation is the teaching that is being observed through all that God has commanded. All the doctrine you learn also gets built into your life where you go from the evangelism blessings of Romans 1 through 11 and then you get to Romans 12:1–2 which says *[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2] Do not be*

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Now you are maturing, knowing what it means to be a man of God, a woman of God, a husband for God, a wife for God, a parent for God, a child for God, etc. Now you are learning where you don't have these things intuitively because your conscience or the world can't be your guide for the Word of God is our only rule of faith and practice. You have a heart for this Word but you have to learn it. Spiritual maturation takes place and it takes us deeper and higher with a lifestyle of evangelism and discipleship.

The second affirmed blessing is astounding multiplication. Think about it – it went from 12, 120, 3,000 to 5,000, to 5,000 to 8,000 with every day people being added. If we start making disciples people are going to start thinking for Jesus out of love for Jesus with the Word of God and they are going to have a Christian world and life view. They are going to have a heart and life for God and then they will have the mind of God to know how to handle the false statements of a death culture. They need to be matured and will start multiplying themselves. I know many would rather have a quick fix.

So I'm going to offer you a quick fix. If I offered you to disciple someone personally for one year and then the next year the two of you each disciple another one for that year or 1,000 new professions of faith every day, which one would you take? I'm kind of drawn to the 1,000 a day, aren't you? If you have 1,000 a day coming to Christ in a year then at the end of the year you have 365,000 who have come to Christ. I want to show you in the following table how this would play out depending on which method you would choose. This was given to me years ago and I have kept this ever since. I can't give you the whole table but this will give you the idea of perhaps who you would choose.

	<u>(1 a year)</u>	<u>(1,000 a day)</u>
Year 1:	1	365,000
Year 2:	2	730,000
Year 3:	4	1,095,000
Year 4:	8...	1,460,000...
Now let's skip to the following year where they have almost caught up.		
Year 24:	8,363,128	8,760,000
Year 25:	16,736,256	9,125,000
Let's skip again.		
Year 34:	8,568,963,072	12,110,000

By year 38 you have arrived by the '1 a year' method at the world's population. A generation is 40 years. In other words, just discipling 1 a year in one generation all have heard. I have great news though God uses both methods. God sweeps in 3,000 here and 5,000 there and 120,000 here and every day adding. God does addition and multiplication but whoever He brings we're supposed to start discipling so that they grow deeper in spiritual maturation, they grow wider through astounding multiplication and addition in the church.

The third affirmed blessing in disciple making is amazing mobilization. As people grow deeper in maturation they are mobilized. They are not only mobilized to multiple but they are mobilized in their ability. They are mobilized in their family. They are growing as a disciple and they know how to be a man of God, a Godly husband and father. When I got married I didn't have the slightest idea of what it meant to be a Christian husband. I'm about to celebrate my 50th wedding anniversary. I have had some models that have been around me that have helped but how I thank God for what He did in my dad's life, my grandfather and several others

who disciplined me and taught me what it meant to be a man of God, a husband for God and a father for God. I got mobilized and got in the game. Don't be on the sidelines critiquing everyone else, get in the game. Get mobilized.

Then I found out I had a spiritual gift. I have a place in the body of Christ. All of us have a spiritual gift and no one has your gift. The body of Christ is waiting and you won't minister your gift in the body of Christ if you're playing drive-by church but if you're being disciplined in a large group and a small group and you find out your gift and take your place, not only does your joy overflow but watch what happens to the body of Christ because now we have members who are mobilized with the gifts they have. They are being trained in the Word of God and they are being mobilized by the Spirit of God.

I like to use this illustration when I was in about fifth or sixth grade. On Saturdays my mom would give me a dollar which was a big deal back then because it got me a round trip bus ticket. That ticket would get me from home to Sears where my mom worked so I could check in with her. From there I would walk to the Carolina Theater and pay my quarter to get in. I would watch the movie, then go to the bathroom after the movie until they finished cleaning the theater and then I'd go back in and watch the movie a second time. I know it was sin and I've confessed it. Then I'd stop by Tanner's and buy a hot dog, an orange and a pea shooter because this was before air conditioning. Then I get back on the bus with my pea shooter and have more fun with that when we came to a stop sign with that open window on the bus.

I'll never forget that between Sears and the Carolina Theater was a place called the White House which served breakfast and lunch. There was a man out front with no legs. He had made for himself a leather saddle for his lower extremities and as he played his harmonica people who walked by would drop coins in his hat that was sitting near him. One time I saw someone throw a quarter absent-mindedly his way but missed his hat. He laid down his harmonica, picked up two blocks of wood he placed his hands on and pushed himself up to walk on his fists to get the quarter. He put the quarter in his hat and then started playing again. He got the job done by making his arms do the work of his legs but I'm sure if you asked him if he would rather have those blocks of wood to walk with or two legs I'm sure he would have said two legs.

I see this happening in the body of Christ all the time. We have legs that are not showing up. The work will still get done because we have people that love Jesus so much that even though they're an arm they will do what they can to take the place of the legs because the legs aren't here. I thank God for those people. There are no parts that are not sacred and useful. We are to be functioning as the body of Christ. What would happen if all the parts showed up? There is this mobilization that is happening in families and then in your burdens as you are reaching out to the community.

I had a man who was a retired FBI agent that had a heart to teach people to read and he showed me a statistic that the majority who don't learn to read by the third grade will end up in jail. Mr. Glasser started what today is called Better Basics and now we have many who use that when tutoring others to read. There is a lawyer who was disciplined who now takes his education as a lawyer to help legislation when it comes to the sanctity of life. I see physicians who have become disciplined who now are with Physicians for Life. Fostering Hope a ministry to those in foster care has grown so much that the state comes to our church and allows us to educate those interested in foster care. Those are people being mobilized in life.

In spiritual maturation they think Biblically. Mobilization is being in the community to make disciples. I wasn't being simplistic when I told the lady to make disciples. All those

people in ministry are there because they have been discipled and that's how they got where they are. That's how they got this burden and how to handle and address that burden Biblically for Christ. You are the same. God has that passion within you, somehow and somewhere but I don't know where it is, but you have to be discipled and help make to disciples in the body of Christ.

Do you know who Edward Kimball is? Edward Kimball was a shoe sales man who had a teenager working for him who was a little rough around the edges. He was intimidated by him but finally said to him 'I teach a Sunday school class, would you come with me to church?' Praise the Lord that the teenage who was unchurched and an unbeliever came to church and got converted. His name was D.L. Moody. Then he was baptized and added to the church. Then Kimball started discipling him. D.L. Moody found his gift as a pastor in the body of Christ.

Moody went to England to do a crusade and won a man back to the ministry named F.B. Meyer. Meyer got so excited about Jesus after Moody touched his life that God laid upon Meyer's heart to become an evangelist in Great Britain with great power and later he was brought over to America where he told the story of revival prayer and power and what it did in his life and D.L. Moody's life. Through Meyer's message a man named J. Wilbur Chapman came to Christ. J. Wilbur Chapman became an evangelist with a heart for students and started the ministry of Youth For Christ. Chapman began to go and disciple and Chapman led a baseball player to Christ named Billy Sunday. Sunday joined Chapman in his ministry and then handed it off to Sunday. Billy Sunday poured his life into a man named Mordecai Ham. There was a prayer meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina and in 1924 Billy Sunday came to Charlotte, North Carolina to preach. God blessed Sunday's ministry there in a powerful and wonderful way.

The result of his ministry there was a prayer meeting for revival that had three objectives – God bring revival to me, to Charlotte, and to America. That prayer meeting started in 1924 and it continued to 1932 and beyond. I know about that prayer meeting personally because my grandfather and his brothers were in it. Ministries like the Christian Businessmen Association were born from it but from 1924 to 1932 they met in a house to pray. The owner of that dairy farm was a man named Franklin Graham. God began to keep moving in revival prayer. Then God brought to Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1934 Mordecai Ham who preached and the 8 year old boy who played in the room next to the prayer meeting in that house, now 16 years old, came to Christ. His name was Billy Frank Graham. The answer to their revival prayer was playing in the next room. Billy went into the ministry and came back to Charlotte to hold his first evangelist meeting at Calvary Independent Church which was in 1948. Praise God that an 18 year old man with his 17 year old wife and their two month old baby boy went forward to give their life to Jesus. That 18 year old man and wife was my dad and mom and that two month old baby was me.

I thank God for Edward Kimball. Make disciples. Spiritual maturation – astounding multiplication – unstoppable mobilization. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart. If God is working in your life and you want to Jesus personally we're here to help you. I invite you to call us here at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200 and we'd be happy to pray with you personally and privately. We'll do everything we can to help you grow to become not only one who trusts Jesus for the forgiveness of sins from the cross but follows Jesus. Perhaps the Lord is working in you today to be more engaged in disciple making through large group, small group and you want to pray with someone, we're available.

Perhaps you want to be a discipler too, then the door is wide open. Holy Spirit speak to people's hearts right where they are, right now. Thank You Jesus for our salvation and that somebody came to us, we were brought into the body of Christ, now help us draw and be discipled in the large group and the small group. Then help us to be disciplers as we're matured and become multipliers and as we are mobilized. I ask this in Jesus' Name, who has promised with His Great Commission, by His Spirit to be with us all the days until He comes again, for I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

EVANGELISM

"Each One Reach One" – *Everyone Evangelizing Everybody Everywhere Everyday*

DISCIPLESHIP

"Each One Be One–Each One Make One" – *Life on Life – Life to Life – Life on Lives*

LIFE TAKEAWAYS

Three Affirmed Blessings

- I. Assured Maturation
- II. Astounding Multiplication
- III. Amazing Mobilization