

MATTHEW 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Amen

- There was an occasion where I wanted to lead somebody to the Lord and a person came and interrupted us. When I became frustrated, I sensed the Lord asking me if I wanted a disciple or a convert.
- The difference is that making a disciple is a lengthy process that requires great dedication and commitment.
- Making disciples will require we get our “hands dirty”, meaning, it’s not always a pleasant or easy process.

PROVERBS 27:17 (NLTSE) As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

- Sometimes it will seem that your “investment” of time into the person, has been in vain, when they choose not to live for Jesus,
- But be encouraged:

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58(NLTSE) So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless

- There are different stages in the discipleship process. Some prepare the soil, some plant the seed, some water and nurture the seed, others reap:

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

- Before anything can be planted, the ground first has to be prepared:

JEREMIAH 4:3(NLTSE) This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: “Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns

- Holy Spirit anointing is critical for effective witnessing:

ACTS 1:4-5(NKJV) “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

ACTS 1:8 But you shall **receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Love for people, should be our motive for soul winning, as it’s the strongest motivator for witnessing
- Sometimes people are just not ready or willing, to hear the gospel:

MATTHEW 7:6 “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you

- We must not always share, just for the sake of sharing:

ACTS 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is your definition of a disciple?
2. Why would the Holy Spirit's role be so important for witnessing?
3. Why would Jesus say to "wait for the Father's promise"?
4. Who are you busy discipling now?