

# MAKING MORE DISCIPLES: SERMON

## HOLY HABITS: MAKING MORE DISCIPLES! I cannot do that!

### Introduction

Two parts to this:

- **making more Christians [Evangelism]**
- helping them grow to Christian maturity [
  - teaching about the faith [eg Alpha, Emmaus, etc. etc.]
  - living out the faith [serving in the church and in the world]]

This sermon focuses on **evangelism**, [showing Christians - new and old -how to grow is important but the subject of another sermon]

**Readings: Matthew 28:16-20**

**John 20:20-23**

[Other relevant readings: Mark 16:14-16, Luke 24:36-49, 11:13, Acts 1:6-8, 2:42-47]

God has delegated the task of making new Christians to **ordinary Christians** like you and me! The commission was given to ordinary working men and women, and it has been passed on to us. It has been said that the Christian Faith is always one generation from extinction. If our generation does not pass it on the church will wither and die.

### What are we called to do?

**1] To grasp that God's authority, peace, power and presence** for this task has been delegated to us. Wonderful promises reflecting the importance of the task.

- Jesus' authority . '**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,.....[Matthew 28:18/19].
- Jesus said, '**Peace be with you**' [see Luke 24:36 and John 20:21]
- Jesus said, You will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you.' [Acts 1:8]. See [3] below
- Jesus said, 'And surely **I am with you** always to the very end of the age.' [Matthew 28:20]
- all these promises are associated with making more disciples.

**2] To live the Christian life** [read Acts 2:42-47]

- A vibrant Christian life will attract others.
- 'And the Lord added to their number daily those who were
- being saved.' [verse 47]

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- Something very attractive about the way they lived

- David Watson wrote, *'it is not surprising that with such a community of disciples bound together in love that God added to their number day by day those who were being saved.'*[a]

- Roger Walton highlighted vibrant worship, mission [including evangelism] and building loving community as key factors in drawing others in.[b]

### **3] We need to ask for God's power working in us.** [not optional]

- Jesus said, 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high' Luke 24:49.

- And Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'  
John 20:22

- We need to ask God for this power. He gives it if we really want it. '.....how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' [Luke 11:13]

- We cannot live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit working in us. Our own strength is not enough.

### **4] Our task is to make disciples;** 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.....' [Matthew 28:19]

- Not just for exceptional Christians, it is in our 'DNA' as Christians. If we do not do it we will never be fulfilled as Christians!

- A 'sending out' appears at the end of each Gospel and in Acts [Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-16, Luke 24:45-49, John 20:20-23, Acts 1:6-8.] It is that important!

- Our going out helps us to grow up! [as Christians]

### **5] How do we do it?**

- We need to tell our story. Personal testimony is powerful.

- [Share something about your story with others.]

- We need to get together with other Christians, develop community and encourage each other. [Home groups can be powerful evangelistic vehicles]

- We need to pray to deepen our relationship with our heavenly Father, to allow Him to guide us. We need to pray for opportunities to share our testimony. It is God who changes people's hearts but He responds to our obedience. [Talk about ways of praying.]. Ask God to show you where to 'go'.

- It is not intelligence, education, personality that is key, but our willingness, obedience and dependence on God. The call is to go out, relying on our faith in Jesus Christ, not thinking up excuses why we should not!

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Look prayerfully where the opportunities lie. Look particularly amongst the poor and needy. They often know they need God!

### 6] Conclusion

- **Making more disciples** is a key part of our Christian walk.
- We shall never be content as Christians unless we do.
- Our faith need not be church bound. After all Jesus said He would build His church. [Matthew 16:18]. Avoid focussing on church buildings. Our focus should be making more disciples!
- Pray for one opportunity to speak about your faith, then pray for another!
- Pray for the development of **a holy habit!**

[a] David Watson, Discipleship, Hodder and Stoughton, 1981, p37

[b] Roger Walton, Disciples Together, SCM Press, 2014

All Bible quotes are from the NIV.

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December 2018*