

MESSAGE

Occasion : HCMC Festival Evangelism Summit
Theme : Discipleship
Venue : Grace Baptist Church
Date : July 7, 2022

**TITLE : DISCIPLESHIP: RAISING CHURCHES
WHO HAVE LEARNED CHRIST**

Text/s :

Eph 4:17-24

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should not walk from now on as other nations walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

19 For they, being past feeling, have given themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and were taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus. 22 For you ought to put off the old man (according to

your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
24 And you should put on the new man, who according to God was created in righteousness and true holiness.

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Colossians 1:9

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that all of you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

INTRODUCTION

The first public evangelistic festival happened in Jerusalem in Acts chapter 2.

But before that happened, the Lord prepared the disciples to be disciplers. He prepared them 40 days after He resurrected. After He ascended, they stayed in Jerusalem 10 days, leading to the Acts 2 event when Peter preached the first big evangelistic preaching that resulted to 3,000 people getting saved and being baptized.

See these passages:

Acts 2:37-42

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer.

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But before all these happened, the Lord had to open their understanding:

Luke 24:36-53

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.

43 And He took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And you are witnesses of these things.

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:1-5

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 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;
5 for John truly baptized with water, but you
shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many
days from now."

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Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost had fully come,
they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven,
as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the
whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues,
as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak with other tongues, as the
Spirit gave them utterance.

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And from verse 14-36 we see the first sermon of
Peter...

And so, we see that the first evangelistic festival
did not happen without preparation!

Many years after, Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus and reviewed to them how they, as a church, should be equipped to do the same...

Eph 4:7-16

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says:

"When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."

9 (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —
16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

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This is now our model on how and what we do as churches to grow as a body of believers.

They are churches which do evangelism. They are churches which do festivals, celebrations, crusades, etc.

1 Cor 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be all of you steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the

work of the Lord, forasmuch as all of you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We do this work no matter what challenges we face.

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14, 18

13 Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked?

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.

18 It is good that you grasp this, And also not remove your hand from the other; For he who fears God will escape them all.

We can do this if we have the learning.

Ps 119:71-74

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, so that I might learn Your Precepts.

72 The Law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver.

73 Your hands have made me and formed me;
give me understanding so that I may learn Your
Commandments.

74 They who fear You will be glad when they see
me; because I have hoped in Your Word.

2 Tim 3:1-7

1 Know this also, that in the last days grievous
times will be at hand.

2 For men will be self-lovers, money-lovers,
boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to
parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 without natural affection, unyielding, false
accusers, without self-control, savage, despisers
of good,

4 traitors, reckless, puffed up, lovers of pleasure
rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness, but denying the
power of it; even turn away from these.

6 For of these are those who creep into houses
and lead captive silly women loaded with sins,
led away with different kinds of lusts,

7 ever learning and never able to come to the
full knowledge of the truth.

Paul tells the Ephesian church: Ye have not so learned Christ.

Eph 4:20-21

20 But you have not so learned Christ,
21 if indeed you have heard Him and were taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus.

As churches, Jesus is what we should learn to do the work. Not simply modules or discipleship lessons.

In order for us to do discipleship, we need to learn how to be equipped disciples ourselves; and what can be better than churches which have learned Christ!

BODY

We show that we have learned when we have acquired knowledge; from knowledge we apply wisdom; and from wisdom we manifest understanding.

Discipleship: Raising Churches Who Have Learned Christ

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
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Discipleship is not simply learning to follow. It is not simply coming to Christ and finding rest.

See the development or progress illustrated in the following words...

- Come to me
- Take my yoke
- Learn from me. Experience how gentle and lowly I am.
- Find rest in me.
- Be intentional in taking my yoke that is easy and my burden that is light.

A) Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding

Colossians 1:9

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that all of you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

To know Christ is different from being able to apply into practice such knowledge.

To be able to apply our knowing of Christ is different from having the spiritual understanding.

Eph 1:17-20

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
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Eph 3:17-19

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height –

19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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Phil 1:9-11

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

B) The profitable word of Truth

2 Tim 3:14-17

14 But continue in the things that you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from a babe you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work.

- Doctrine - What is right.
- Reproof - What is not right.
- Correction - How to do right.
- Instruction - How to stay right.

C) Followers vs Members

Eph 4:13-16

13 And this until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 so that we no longer may be infants, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, in the dishonesty of men, in cunning craftiness, to the wiles of deceit.

15 But that you, speaking the truth in love, may in all things grow up to Him who is the Head, even Christ;

16 from whom the whole body, fitted together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of each part, producing the growth of the body to the edifying of itself in love.

Rom 6:11-13

11 Likewise count yourselves also to be truly dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but yield yourselves to God, as one alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Rom 12:1-5

1 I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. But set your mind to be right-minded, even as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For even as we have many members in one body, and all members do not have the same function,

5 so we the many are one body in Christ, and each one members of one another.

They are not followers but members who do the work.

Matthew 10:38-39

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

The church in Antioch took their cross and followed.

Acts 11:29-30

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

After receiving the word gladly, they were baptized and were added as members in the church in Jerusalem:

Acts 2:41-42, 46-47

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

The Lord's promise of addition is based on two things:

- The kingdom of God
- The righteousness of God

Regarding the kingdom of God:

John 3:3, 5-7

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, (o. pneuma) he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit (o. pneuma) is spirit. (o. pneuma)

7 Marvel not that I said unto you, All of you must be born again.

Ephesians 5:26-27

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (o. rhema)

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Regarding the righteousness of God:

Romans 14:16-18

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Ephesians 5:9-10

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit (o. pneuma) is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Philippians 1:10-11

10 That all of you may approve things that are excellent; that all of you may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.

11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

D) Discipleship then is raising believers, churches who have learned Christ and being made profitable.

Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

From being unprofitable, disciples should be transformed to being profitable.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Philemon 1:10-11

10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

CONCLUSION