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Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills Blvd Church of Christ - 2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland Florida 33805

The Making Of A Disciple

Matthew 9:9-13

Apparently, Jesus made disciples at different times. Some time had passed since Jesus chose Peter, Andrew, James, and John. These were chosen by the sea because they were fishermen, and Jesus told them He would make them fishers of men. Others of Jesus' disciples were made disciples without our specific knowledge. We learn from those we do know that Jesus repeatedly followed the same template, thus indicating the method of making disciples. So, we will use Matthew as an example of making a disciple. When choosing the twelve, Jesus had a special work planned for them, but each one had to choose to become the special disciple he had planned him to be as recorded in Luke 6:12-16. Yet, the making of disciples has a very spiritual component that we too can employ. So, I want us to notice the elements that make a disciple.

First in our text, we note that Matthew was not of the approved class of the Jews. So, God is no respecter of persons when making disciples (Acts 10:34). Social, business, family, or any other temporal standard cannot be applied to making a disciple. A man of a low state may well qualify, even a man in a sinful state. The key to discipleship is the heart of the man. All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), but the man that understands his wicked state before God is a candidate for discipleship (Luke 18:13). Jesus told this parable because of *some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ~Luke 18:9*

Too often we expect the perfect candidate for discipleship to be a relatively moral, middle class, somewhat respectable person, and yet these are the very ones who commonly are not interested in becoming disciples. I know that many of the lower classes in our society are as carnally minded as others, leaving our culture with too few who would be interested in becoming a disciple. The meaning of discipleship is perverted as well. Nonetheless, a disciple is going to be made from the one who knows his or her need for the Savior (Mark 9:24). Matthew simply got up at Jesus command and followed Him (v. 9). So, we conclude that the only real candidate to make a disciple is a penitent one.

Second, a disciple is so excited about his calling that he wants others to become disciples too (v. 10). The nature of discipleship is eternal, so it is no surprise that disciples are a fervent people. This is how God planned for the growth of disciples, and thus churches throughout the world (Matthew 28:20; Acts 8:4). This is the example of the Samaritan woman at the well: *So, the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and *said to the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" They went out of the city, and were coming to Him. (John 4:28-30).* Her zeal had a great effect. *From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." So, when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days (John 4:39-40).* So, we conclude that true discipleship begets discipleship.

Third, the making of disciples is going to make enemies (v. 11). Jealousy, envy, and evil will always cast their evil accusations at those making disciples. We have to accept this and keep on making disciples (Luke 21:14-17). Despite evil's desire, we can continue to make disciples because the penitent heart is stronger than the wicked heart. Were Matthew and his companions turned away by the Pharisees' hateful response to Jesus' keeping company with them? We also need to know that true discipleship will not be shaken. The apostles would be tried and beaten for the making of disciples (Acts 4 & 5), but it would not stop men and women from becoming disciples (Acts 4:13-22). The making of disciples was so effective that it caused many priests to become disciples as well (Acts 6:7).

Therefore, we conclude that making disciples requires sin sick persons (v. 12,13), and all sin sick persons are in need of the Great Physician. However, we know that many will remain in their sin sick condition and never seek the Great Physician (Matthew 7:13). But in the mix are those who want to be healed (Matthew 7:14; Mark 1:32-34). All on the Day of Pentecost, and forward, who acknowledged their need for a physician, found the Great Physician and were healed. May I beg you to see the Great Physician? Can I implore you to become a disciple? And if you're a disciple already, will you make disciples of others? *by Chuck Richardson*