

Day 39: Commitment to Disciplemaking

Everyone is a disciple of someone or something. The question for us is “into whose image are we being disciplined?” At Stonegate, we want to be committed to building a culture of discipleship and transformation into the image of Jesus. That culture is marked by all of us being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing the sort of things Jesus did.

Who are you being formed in the image of? A celebrity? A social media influencer? Jesus? A pro athlete? A successful entrepreneur?

Our focus scripture for today is Matthew 28:16–20

¹⁶ “The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 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 everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

When all is said and done, our church shouldn't be known for our budget, attendance, personalities, facilities, or programs. Our highest goal is that we be known as people of radical self-sacrificial love for God and others that led to a commitment to disciple people to become disciple-makers? Did we build environments where people were trained to become disciples who could disciple others in their social circles? Were people formed into worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who observe the ways of Jesus? These are important questions. Paul gives us insight into how we judge if this is becoming a reality or not - it takes four generations of discipleship.

Listen to the words of Paul from 2 Timothy 2:1–2, “¹ You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Paul disciplined Timothy. Two generations. Timothy to faithful men and faithful men to others. Two more. Four in total. It will take all of us to remain committed to a disciple-making culture.

Pause to consider what adjustments and changes you would need to make to be disciplined more intentionally and trained so you could guide others in following Jesus.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” take some time today to find a quiet place where you can be alone. While alone, take some time to connect with God. Ask God to lead you down a path of transformation and discipleship. Ask God to give you the resolve to walk down the path and not give up. Finally, ask God to direct you to people who can help you navigate new areas of trust and transformation.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, be inspired by Jesus' commission of blessing as He left this earth found in:

Luke 24:50–53 ⁵⁰ Then He led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. ⁵¹ And while He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² After worshiping Him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they were continually in the temple praising God.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.