

The Master's Mandate:

Lessons for Everyone from the Greatest Disciple-Making Leader of all time!

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“A disciple is one who loyally follows Jesus by learning, incorporating, and practicing His teachings, actions, and character traits in a passionate effort to daily live as He lived in this world.”¹

Intro:

The Lord's last **command** should be our first **concern** [Taken from Evangelism Explosion III Int'l]

Key Passage: Matthew 28:18-20: ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (NIV)

THE THREE Ps OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. V. 18. THE **POWER** FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION

“All authority [power] in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Therefore, we go in the power of Jesus that He has over nations, our lives, and our circumstances)

2. V. 19-20a, THE **PROCESS** OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

The discipling process comprises the three steps of **going**, baptizing, and **teaching**. (As a result, we don't view discipleship as a program but instead we see it as a relational process in which we reproduce ourselves in others. In order to be effective in making disciples of all nations, we must have an idea who a disciple is. For more details, take a look at the **acronym of a D.I.S.C.I.P.L.E. on the next page!**)

3. V. 20b, THE **PRESENCE** OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (For this reason, we are not alone in the work of world evangelization and discipleship)

¹Donald E. Bader, *Developing a plan to disciple international students* [2008 Doctoral dissertation]. Available from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database. (UM No. 3337438).

The definition of discipleship that Bader presents on page 1, by design, takes into account every aspect of a person's life: "loyalty" expresses a commitment of the *will*; "following" requires and reveals an intimate relationship between the human *spirit* and Jesus; and "learning" involves primarily the *intellect* but also includes the *emotions* and *behavior* as attitudes, desires, and character undergo significant change, impacting *relationships* with other believers and with nonbelievers."

Below is an acronym of a D.I.S.C.I.P.L.E. that I developed which helps me to have a mental picture of the character qualities that a disciple of Jesus embodies. The acrostic also encourages me to have the big picture of discipleship in mind.

A **D.I.S.C.I.P.L.E.** is someone who:

Discerns and does God's will (Rom. 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-20)

Identifies with potential disciples (Examples of the Incarnation & Paul: John 1:1, 14; 1 Cor. 9:22)

Senses the move of the Spirit (Galatians 5:25; John 16:13)

Confesses sin (1 John 1:9; James 5:16b)

Informs others of the work done (Mark 5:18-19; Malachi 3:16; Ephesians 5:19)

Perseveres in the Lord's work (James 1:2, 1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

Looks to Jesus for strength, guidance, and example (Heb. 12:1ff; 1 Peter 2:21)

Enables others to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2)

Discussion Questions [The Five W's & H of Discipleship]:

1. **Who is a disciple of Christ? Describe how he or she looks like?**

2. **When does one become a disciple of Christ? /When does he/she start to make disciples for Christ?** (2 Corinthians 6:2; Luke 9:23, 52ff)

3. **What is discipleship all about?**
“Discipleship is a developmental process through which we move from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity and this process is repeated through us.” Taken from a Radio program by Dr. Richard Powell, Ridgeland, MS

4. Where is the base of operation for a disciple of Christ?

We have various spheres of influence in which we touch the lives of others either positively or negatively. We touch people for good or for evil.

5. Why is discipleship important today? / Why do we need to “make disciples”?

*The tragedy of the 21st century church is mediocrity.

6. How do we go about making disciples of all nations?

As you serve the Lord (through discipleship), “refuse to be average. Let your heart soar as high as it will.” A.W.TOZER.

“Without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the work of evangelism [and discipleship] is inconceivable even impossible” (John Stott [paraphrased]).

Let it be for the whole of life. Discipleship “should touch every area of our lives—our personal life and lifestyles, our work, our relationships.” (Dr. Howard Hendricks)