Love That Makes Disciples (From Followers to Disciple Makers)

The Legacy of Love (Finishing Well)

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Sermon: The Legacy of Love (Finishing Well): Love That Makes Disciples (From Followers to Disciple Makers)

Series Text

John 21:15–17 (KJV)[15] So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. [16] He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. [17] He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Sermon Text

Matthew 28:18–20 (KJV)[18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Introduction:

Throughout our previous series, *Love In Action*, we discovered that love is more than something we feel, it's something we demonstrate through services, giving, forgiving, restoring, and unity.

But as we approach the conclusion of our journey through God's love, we have one final question:

What will remain of the love we have demonstrated when we are no longer here to demonstrate it?

How many of you have heard of the terms: generational stronghold or curses? Genetic predisposition? Hereditary conditions?

- Deuteronomy 5: [9] Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me,
- Psalm 51: [5] Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

These terms and ideas deal with legacy – that is what will you leave behind?

It is one thing to make a difference in someone's life today; it is another to make a difference that impacts generations.

Love in action changes lives, but the legacy of love changes generations.

The final series of this year is **"The Legacy of Love (Finishing Well)."**

The greatest evidence of a life transformed by God's love is not simply what we accomplish, but what continues through those we have loved, developed, and empowered.

In our series theme text, John 21, Jesus gives Peter three opportunities to reaffirm his love following his denials. Each time, Jesus connects Peter's love to his responsibility for others.

In Matthew 28, after three years of teaching, correcting, and developing them, Jesus was now transitioning them from followers to disciple makers.

Known as the Great Commission, Jesus commands them to "Go ye therefore, and teach."

In verse 19, the word "Teach" is translated from the Greek word *mathēteusate,* which means to make disciples, while in verse 20, *"Teaching"* refers to the continuous process of making them.

Jesus was not simply commissioning them to produce converts, but to develop disciples.

Evangelism introduces people to Christ. Discipleship develops people in Christ. Disciple making reproduces what Christ has developed in us.

God never intended for us to become the final destination of His love, but the means through which His love reaches others. Jesus started with 12, but now there are 3 billion Christians.

Today, we will discover three essential components of love that make disciples!

Series and Sermon: The Legacy of Love (Finishing Well): Love That Makes Disciples (From Followers to Disciple Makers)

(The Authority, The Assignment, and the Assurance of Discipleship)

I. The Authority of Discipleship (Recognize His Power)

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Before we can effectively develop others for Christ, we must recognize that our authority to make disciples comes from Christ.

Jesus begins the Great Commission not with a command, but with a declaration of authority.

The Greek word for "power," *exousia*, means authority and legitimate right to exercise power.

The disciples were not sent based on their own abilities, but under the authority of Jesus Christ.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:

Jesus was not simply interested in producing fruit, but in producing fruit that would remain.

Making disciples doesn't require personal perfection, but submission to the One who is perfect.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

You may not have a title, but you have an assignment.

You may not have a pulpit, but you have a purpose.

You may not have a congregation, but you have a commission.

You don't have to possess all power; you simply have to be connected to the One who does!

Love that makes disciples recognizes His power.

II. The Assignment of Discipleship (Reproduce His People)

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The assignment of every disciple is not simply to follow Christ personally, but to intentionally develop others who will follow Christ faithfully.

The word "therefore" connects the assignment of verse 19 to the authority of verse 18.

Because Jesus possesses all authority, His followers are commissioned to make disciples. Going, baptizing, and teaching describe how this assignment is carried out.

Their assignment was not merely to produce converts, but to develop lifelong followers.

Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.

Before Jesus sent them forth, He called them to be with Him, investing His time, wisdom, and love in their lives.

Discipleship requires more than information; it requires investment. It extends beyond Sunday morning into our families, relationships, ministries, and Growth Groups.

Somebody taught us, encouraged us, and saw something in us that we couldn't see in ourselves.

Now it's our responsibility to become that somebody for someone else.

Don't just learn how to pray — teach somebody how to pray.

Don't just learn how to overcome — help somebody else overcome.

Don't just become a faithful disciple — become a faithful disciple maker.

The love that reaches you must become the love that reaches through you.

Love that makes disciples reproduces His people.

III. The Assurance of Discipleship (Rely on His Presence)

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The lasting effectiveness of discipleship is not dependent upon our ability to change people, but upon our reliance upon His continuing presence.

Jesus concludes the Great Commission with the reassurance of His presence.

Our responsibility is to develop others; God's responsibility is to produce spiritual growth.

1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

The One who calls us accompanies us. The One who commissions us empowers us.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Don't give up on people who are still struggling. The same God who is working on you is working on them!

Keep planting. Keep watering. Keep teaching. Keep loving.

Love that makes disciples relies on His presence.

Conclusion: Don't Let the Love Stop With You

When Jesus stood before His disciples in Matthew 28, He was preparing them for a transition.

He had invested in, taught them, loved them, and developed them. Why? So that they could invest, teach, love, and develop others.

Now it's our turn!

Recognize His Power!

Reproduce His People!

Rely on His Presence!

Somebody prayed when we didn't know how to pray.

Somebody believed when we didn't know how to believe.

Somebody stood in the gap when we couldn't stand for ourselves.

Somebody taught us, corrected us, encouraged us, and loved us.

Because the greatest legacy you can leave is not simply what you leave *for* people, but what you leave *in* people.

Don't let the love stop with you!

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Love That Makes Disciples (From Followers to Disciple Makers))

Lesson Text:

- **Primary Text: Matthew 28:18–20**
- **Supporting Texts: John 15:16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:6–7**

Sermon Outline:

- **I. The Authority of Discipleship (Recognize His Power)**
- **II. The Assignment of Discipleship (Reproduce His People)**
- **III. The Assurance of Discipleship (Rely on His Presence)**

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting To Know "Me"

1. What are three things you are looking forward to before the year ends?

2. Which qualities do you look for in your closest friends and family?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read Matthew 28:18–20. What is the significance of the word "therefore" in verse 19, and how does it connect Jesus' declaration of authority to His command to make disciples?

2. Read John 21:15–17 and Matthew 28:19–20. What do Jesus' instructions in these passages reveal about the relationship between loving Him and making disciples?

III. Life Application

1. Who has been influential in helping you grow as a disciple of Christ?

2. Is there someone in your life whom God may be calling you to disciple or encourage spiritually?