

Making Disciples: The Ultimate Blessing

March 24, 2024 ▪ Brad Manley

Making disciples brings the blessing of receiving God's _____.

Making disciples brings the blessing of _____ in God's family.

Making disciples brings the blessing of participation in God's _____.

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (ESV)

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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 all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some ways that you've been blessed by others discipling you?

Read & Discuss: Matthew 28:18-20

1. Though Jesus had not met with His disciples since they abandoned Him at Gethsemane, when Jesus sees them again He says nothing about their past failures. Why do you think He didn't bring up what they had done? How does this cause you to think about your own relationship to Jesus?
2. Jesus began His remarks to the disciples by saying "all authority in heaven and on earth had been given" to Him. What terms would you normally use to designate someone who made that claim? How do you think this statement might have affected the disciples? How are Jesus words' reminiscent of Daniel 7:13-14?
3. By using the word "therefore" (v. 19), Jesus links the commissioning of His disciples to His claim of authority. What impact would Jesus have intended this connection to have on His disciples? Does this connection still have impact on believers today? Why or why not?
4. In the original language, verses 19 and 20 have only one main verb: "make disciples." How would you describe what it means to make a disciple? Do you find this activity comes easily to you or with difficulty? Explain.
5. Jesus specifies that disciple making is to be done throughout the nations. Why do you think this was important to Jesus? (*See Revelation 5:9-10.*) How can we help keep this goal in our thoughts despite all the pressures and busyness of life?
6. According to verses 19b and 20a, what should Jesus' disciples be characterized by? Why would each of these things be expected of someone who followed Jesus?

Apply: As you read verses 18-20, what truths in Jesus' words encourage you to be obedient to His call to go and "make disciples of all nations"? What could you do this week to act on this call that Jesus has put on His followers?

Pray: Spend time praying that we as a church will grow in our trust in Jesus and be inspired to obey His commission. Pray as well that God would be at work throughout our community this Easter, drawing many people to Himself.