

Whoever finds his life will
lose it, and whoever loses
his life for my sake will
find it.
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

September 21, 2007—The Great Commission: Discipleship—Part VI

6:00 – 6:05	1) Coffee & Donuts 2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	1) The Great Commission: <i>All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.</i> (Mt 28:18-20, NASB) 2) Purpose of discipleship? a) To become <i>fully</i> human 3) Case studies: ¹ a) Peter i) Follows Jesus (Mt 4:18-20) ii) Confesses he is a sinner (Lk 5:4-8) iii) Confesses Jesus as Messiah (Mt 16:13-16) iv) Denies Jesus publicly (Mt 26:69-75) v) Renews his love for Jesus (Jn 14:15-17) vi) Receives the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) vii) Publicly proclaims Jesus (Acts 2:14-36) viii) Continues to strive toward Jesus (2Pet 1:5-8) b) Paul i) Has a dramatic encounter with Jesus (Acts 9:1-8) ii) Filled with the Holy Spirit and begins publicly proclaiming Jesus as Lord (Acts 9:9-20) iii) Continues to strive toward Jesus (Phil 3:12-16) 4) Becoming a Christian: Point-in-Time or Process? a) Yes. b) Danger today:

¹ Points 3 through are from McKnight, Scot. *The Jesus Creed*. Ch 10.

THE SERVICE OF PASSIONATE DEVOTION²

Lovest thou Me? Feed My sheep. John 21:16.

Jesus did not say—Make converts to your way of thinking, but look after My sheep, see that they get nourished in the knowledge of Me. We count as service what we do in the way of Christian work; Jesus Christ calls service what we are to Him, not what we do for Him. Discipleship is based on devotion to Jesus Christ, not on adherence to a belief or a creed. “If any man come to Me and hate not . . . , he cannot be My disciple.” There is no argument and no compulsion, but simply—‘If you would be My disciple, you must be devoted to Me.’ A man touched by the Spirit of God suddenly says— ‘Now I see Who Jesus is,’ and that is the source of devotion.

Today we have substituted creedal belief for personal belief, and that is why so many are devoted to causes and so few devoted to Jesus Christ. People do not want to be devoted to Jesus, but only to the cause He started. Jesus Christ is a source of deep offence to the educated mind of to-day that does not want Him in any other way than as a Comrade. Our Lord’s first obedience was to the will of His Father, not to the needs of men; the saving of men was the natural outcome of His obedience to the Father. If I am devoted to the cause of humanity only, I will soon be exhausted and come to the place where my love will falter; but if I love Jesus Christ personally and passionately, I can serve humanity though men treat me as a door-mat. The secret of a disciple’s life is devotion to Jesus Christ, and the characteristic of the life is its unobtrusiveness. It is like a corn of wheat, which falls into the ground and dies, but presently it will spring up and alter the whole landscape. (Cf. John 12:24.)

June 19

GOD'S PURPOSE OR MINE?

He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side. . . .
(Mark 6:45).

We tend to think that if Jesus Christ compels us to do something and we are obedient to Him, He will lead us to great success. We should never have the thought that our dreams of success are God's purpose for us. In fact, His purpose may be exactly the opposite. We have the idea that God is leading us toward a particular end or a desired goal, but He is not. The question of whether or not we arrive at a particular goal is of little importance, and reaching it becomes merely an episode along the way. What we see as only the process of reaching a particular end, God sees as the goal itself.

What is my vision of God's purpose for me? Whatever it may be, His purpose is for me to depend on Him and on His power *now*. If I can stay calm, faithful, and unconfused while in the middle of the turmoil of life, the goal of the purpose of God is being accomplished in me. God is not working toward a particular finish—His purpose is the process itself. What He desires for me is that I see "Him walking on the sea" with no shore, no success, nor goal in sight, but simply having the absolute certainty that

² Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest*

	<p>everything is all right because I see "Him walking on the sea" (6:49). It is the process, not the outcome, that is glorifying to God.</p> <p>God's training is for now, not later. His purpose is for this very minute, not for sometime in the future. We have nothing to do with what will follow our obedience, and we are wrong to concern ourselves with it. What people call preparation, God sees as the goal itself.</p> <p>God's purpose is to enable me to see that He can walk on the storms of my life right now. If we have a further goal in mind, we are not paying enough attention to the present time. However, if we realize that moment-by-moment obedience is the goal, then each moment as it comes is precious.</p> <p>JULY 28</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*

- Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest*
- McKnight, Scot. *The Jesus Creed*.