

December 1, 2003

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## “MAKING DISCIPLES”

Dear saints, I greet you in the greatest, the most glorious, and the holiest Name that has ever fallen from the lips of mortal man - JESUS CHRIST! He alone is worthy of honor, praise and worship! He alone has the words of life (John 6:68). JESUS CHRIST alone is worthy of our service. Only JESUS is worthy of our discipleship -

**“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” (Colossians 1:16-20)**

Why would any “born again” person want to become a disciple of a mere mortal man? Why would any “born again” believer want to become a disciple of an institution or denomination when they were called to become His disciple and His alone? Why? Could it be that we have not had His disciples teaching us to become His disciples? Could it be that we have been under the influence of controlling spirits, spirits that dominate and manipulate, all in the name of JESUS? Could it be that we have been taught to “believe in” JESUS but we have not been taught to “believe JESUS”? I have come to the conclusion that the answer to the above questions is sadly - “yes”.

For the most part, the people who call themselves by His name have not been, and are not now being taught to become a disciple of JESUS CHRIST and all that discipleship entails, starting with obedience. While His name is used freely, His word is taught sparingly, especially under the anointing of the Holy Spirit Himself. The end result of our turning a deaf ear to the words of JESUS in Matthew 28, verse 19 & 20, is that we now have a lot of religious activity with lots and lots of form, but virtually no power in relation to what is available to us. While this is a sad truth we should not be surprised. After all, form without power is one of the signs of man’s latter days on the earth. (see 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Another sign of the times that JESUS warned us about is found in Mark, chapter 13 verse 22. There He said that spirits of deception would be so strong that even the elect would be susceptible to them. Of course we always think of someone else as being deceived. Not us! No way! “We have the truth and we know that we are right.” If this is you, let me warn you that this attitude of heart is the direct result of spiritual pride. Not only that, but it is a sure symptom of deception. One test that you can apply to your heart to determine whether or not you are deceived is this. Are you personally offended when someone criticizes your Church in favor of JESUS? Are you offended when someone criticizes your denomination in favor of JESUS? Do you accept and believe the word of your Church, denomination or one of its leaders when that word does not agree to the letter of the word of God as spoken through the lips of JESUS CHRIST? Do you accept the authority of a mere mortal man over the authority of JESUS CHRIST? If so my friend, you are deceived. However, there is good news and that news is simply JESUS. Purpose in your heart not to die apart from His word being hidden in your heart. Go to Matthew Chapters 5, 6, and 7 as well as the entire book of John and soak in the Master’s word until you are saturated. Ask FATHER to allow His Spirit to teach you and guide you into all truth - JESUS. Denounce all deception and every lying spirit of hell regardless of how right that spirit might appear to be. Purpose in your heart to finish your race as one of His disciples, even if it costs you every friend you have, all of your family and the left foot of fellowship of your church. Oh saints of God, hear His call - He alone is worthy of your life. Your church cannot save you! Your church cannot restore you! Your church cannot heal you! No! No! No! only JESUS

can meet your needs. Only JESUS can comfort you. Only JESUS can teach you and guide you into all truth. Turn your heart fully, completely and totally to Him. Do not attempt to divide your loyalty between JESUS and anything else. Our God is a jealous God. (see Exodus 20:5, Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 4:24) Listen to Paul's words found in 2 Corinthians 11: 2-4:

**“I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another JESUS whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted - you may well put up with it.”**

My brothers and sisters, many of us, myself included, have put up with a lot of spiritual garbage. Anything apart from Christ Himself is garbage. It is corrupt and full of darkness. It may have His name tacked on to it, but it does not have His light and life in it, therefore it is in the end - death! I must tell you the truth. If what you are being spiritually fed does not challenge you to walk in holiness and righteousness - if it does not call you to obey God alone - if it does not call you to repentance - if it does not call you to love God with all your heart, mind and soul - if it does not declare God's word to be the absolute truth of God as revealed to man, down to the last jot and tittle - if what you are being spiritually fed does not do these things, then I declare to you that it is not of God! It is either the flesh of some man or worse, it is the hiss of hell. I tell you my friends, with love, if what you are being spiritually fed is not drawing you into a more intimate relationship with JESUS and preparing you to become one of His disciples, then you had better flee from it before you can no longer flee. Life and death hang in the balance!

Human nature being what it is, primarily self centered, causes us to be easily influenced by what we are exposed to. If we sit in a Baptist church long enough, we will become a Baptist. If we sit in a Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Independent Charismatic or any other church long enough, we will become exactly what we have been exposed to. We may think that as long as we are in a setting that claims JESUS as savior that all is well, but that is not necessarily so. Things are not always as they seem to be. Just because we call ourselves Christian does not necessarily mean that we are in fact saved. (see Matthew 7:21-23) Just because we are members of a church, have been baptized and are faithful in attending church meetings does not necessarily mean that we are born again and saved. We can claim to be a Prophet, Apostle, Priest, Preacher or Elder - we can wear long robes, short robes, white robes or black robes - we can wear starched white collars with a great big cross hanging around our neck, and it all means nothing if we are not being conformed into His image and about the business of making disciples. Not disciples of our own. Not disciples of our church or our denomination. No! Never! We are to be about preparing His disciples for His own personal use, not for us to control and manipulate.

I do not care who you are or what office you may claim in the church, whenever you begin to build your own ministry and to dominate, manipulate and control the sons and daughters of God, you have overstepped your bounds. You are now under the influence of the Jezebel spirit and not the Holy Spirit. Do not be fooled into believing that you can attempt to control the Holy Spirit in one of God's sons or daughters and get away with it.

One major reason for the shortage of disciples of JESUS CHRIST that would be carrying on His work in His stead, (see John 14:12-14) is the absence of true disciples in places of leadership. True disciples make or train up more true disciples. Their hearts beat for JESUS not for a ministry, not for a church. They are marked by their spiritual poverty of heart. They walk in humility and mourn over the sins of God's people. They are brokenhearted over the shame and disgrace that we continue to heap upon the name of JESUS CHRIST. They are blessed of God because they reflect the Beatitudes of the sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5:3-12) in their nature and character. They desire to decrease as He increases. They walk in the Spirit of God and are counted in the heavenlies as friends of the King.

**“Oh God, raise up for this generation disciples of JESUS that will deliver His word in power with much assurance flowing to the people. FATHER, set the captives free from all religious bondage. Purge from our hearts every spiritual lie that has taken root there. Oh God, we are desperate to know**

**JESUS and to receive revelation understanding of His word. FATHER, prepare our hearts to receive the seed of Your word and let it take deep and abiding root there. We don't need more intellectual knowledge of Your word. Many of us have minds that are full of Your word while our hearts are cold and empty. Many of us are spiritually dying while sitting in a church pew. Oh God have mercy -- have mercy - please do not leave us in this condition. Forgive us for having mocked Your word. Please forgive us for leaving JESUS, for failing to take His word seriously. FATHER, we are desperate in this season of time. Society is self destructing all around us. The stench of physical and spiritual death fills the church and we seem helpless to do anything about it. My God - My God - turn your ear toward the cry of our hearts. Restore JESUS CHRIST to His rightful place among those of us who are called by His name. Prepare us to finish our race as true disciples, in a blaze of His glory. In the name of JESUS, FATHER we pray."**

Before I conclude this message I would like to discuss the importance of obedience as it relates to salvation and maturing into discipleship. FATHER'S word is perfectly clear and easily understood. God commands us to obey His word or else! The "or else" is never good news. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 we are taught to obey God and receive His blessing in return, or disobey His word and suffer the consequences, the least of which is the loss of a blessing and the worst being hell forever. I would sum up FATHER'S command to obey Him in this way: God has said, if you will, I will! If you don't I won't! It's actually quite simple to understand. Salvation as well as discipleship hangs in the balance. Nothing is more important. If we love Him, we will obey Him. (see John 14:23) If we do not love Him, we will not obey Him. (see John 14:24) If we say we love Him, but do not obey Him, we are liars. (see 1 John 2:4)

In Exodus 23 verses 20 and 21 God spoke to Moses concerning JESUS and said the following:

**"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him."**

And of His name, God spoke the following to Isaiah:

**"For unto us a child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)**

Once again God spoke to Moses concerning JESUS and His word. Listen -

**"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and I will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of Him."  
(Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19)**

In Acts chapter 3 Peter spoke to the people and quoted Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19. Peter's interpretation of Deuteronomy 18:19 was as follows:

**"And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people." (Acts 3:23)**

In Hebrews 12:25 we are again warned to obey the voice of JESUS CHRIST. Listen -

**"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven."**

Finally, I would again quote the writer of Hebrews as he spoke of JESUS. Listen-

**“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.  
And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”**  
**(Hebrews 5:8&9)**

Once again, let those who have ears to hear know that there is no salvation apart from a heart that obeys God; and there is no way the disobedient can walk this earth as a disciple. No way!

Today, we hear a lot about grace. We are told that we are now under the new covenant of grace and obedience is nothing more than a return to the law, from which we have been freed. We are told that grace alone is our ticket to heaven. We are told that we are helpless to obey on our own, and it is now time for JESUS to do our obeying for us. All we need to do now, is relax, kick back and enjoy the ride to glory land. Sounds good does it not? In fact there is a measure of truth in this theology. It is only by grace (unmerited favor) that we will enter into the Kingdom of God. However, the door way to grace is obedience. Only Lucifer would tell you that you do not need to worry about obeying FATHER’S word.

Listen to me saints. Grace apart from obedience is a half truth and therefore it is a lie, just as obedience apart from grace is a half truth and is also a lie. Man’s problem has always been that he is bound and determined not to obey God. Our hearts are deceitful and terribly wicked. (see Jeremiah 17:9) We have a long history with God of presuming upon His grace to our own hurt and suffering. Today, there are a growing number of those who are spreading this false gospel of grace alone, apart from obedience, and leading an untold number of souls into darkness, death and destruction. They would have us believe that now that we are believers, we have no more free will. We have become no more than human robots who are no longer responsible for obeying God. Where in the world did this funny gospel come from? If you don’t know, let me help you. It came from Hell.

I beg you saints, do not buy into this false gospel. JESUS is not the author of salvation of those who disobey Him, but rather those who obey Him. We choose daily who we will believe and who we will obey. We do the choosing as an act of our own free will. We also take the first step in obedience to His word. He does not choose for us, nor does He take the first step in obedience. However, when we choose to obey Him and we take the first step, then He gives us the grace to move on. Apart from His grace we could not finish the walk. He is our enabler in all things of life.

We will have more to say about grace and obedience when we write again. Until then remember -

***“The higher we go, the less we know!  
The less we know, the freer we become!  
The freer we become, the more child like we are!  
The more child like we become, the closer we are to God!***

There is nothing more pleasant to a father than a loving and obedient child. There is also nothing that hurts a father more than an unloving and disobedient child. Which do you think FATHER will receive into His kingdom?

God Bless

**Tom**

Tom