

Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God
Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 1
© Dallas Willard Ministries

*"Every New Testament scholar will tell you that
what Jesus taught was the Kingdom of God and discipleship."*

Peter Wagner

Am I preaching the Kingdom of God? Am I teaching the Kingdom of God?

1. Make Disciples

- a. We start with Jesus' statement found in Matthew 28:18-20:

"I have been given say
over everything in Heaven and earth,
so go make apprentices to me
among people of every kind,
submerge them in the reality
of the Trinitarian God,
and lead them into doing everything
I told you to do."

"Now look! I am with you every minute,
until the job is completely done."

Jesus is saying, "As you go, make _____ to me among people of every kind."

"Submerge them in the _____ of the Trinitarian God, and lead them into doing
everything I told you."

"Now look! I am _____ every minute, until the job is completely done."

- b. This connects back to the Abrahamic covenant: "I will multiply you and make you a blessing to
all the families of the earth" (Genesis 22:17-18). **This is how the Abrahamic covenant comes
into the modern world.**

Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God
Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 1
© Dallas Willard Ministries

- c. The first step is to _____. If you are going to make disciples, you need to know what you are making. You need to know when you had one made.
- A disciple is an apprentice or a student.
- d. Apprentice people of all kinds – no socio-political distinctions or other kinds of cultural distinctions – and bring them into the presence of God, the Trinitarian reality. _____ them in that – the Trinitarian presence.
- e. Jesus said *when two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst* (Matthew 18:20). He brings the Father and the Holy Spirit. They all come together.
- f. He didn't say go make Christians. He didn't say go make Baptists. That would be okay if they were disciples...nothing wrong with being a Baptist or a Christian. But you want to be a _____, and then everything else will take care of itself.

2. Who is an Apprentice of Jesus?

WHO IS AN APPRENTICE OF JESUS?

As Jesus' apprentice (disciple, student),
I am learning from Him how to lead
my life in the Kingdom of God
as He would lead it if He were I.

I am with Him in all my circumstances
learning to be like Him.

- a. Start with the biblical model: Who were the disciples of Jesus in his day? **They were people who were with him. They were learning to be like him.**
- b. That's the original picture of a disciple: *With Jesus; _____ to be like _____.*

Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God
Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 1
© Dallas Willard Ministries

- c. Jesus is with us in a way that is actually better than how he was with the original disciples. He arranged for that. When he comes to tell his people he's going to leave them, he says, "Now don't worry. I'm going to send another *Paraclete*" (John 14:26). We translate it, "I'm going to send another *Comforter*," but that has too much association with that nice fluffy thing you sleep under.

Paraclete is more like the cleats on your shoes. It grabs things. A *Paraclete* – He's going to be with you, and he's going to make me [Jesus] present to you. He's going to never leave you. He's _____ with you. And so, we can be with Jesus now.

- d. We have to **choose** to do that, and we have to learn how to do it. What are we learning? We're learning to live our lives in the _____ of God as _____ would lead my life if he were I. A big point in my wording it that way is to help us understand that the focus is _____ life. Not his life, *our life*. **I am learning to lead my life in the Kingdom of God as Jesus would lead my life if he were I.**
- e. How could he be me? Could he be me? It's only if you _____ that he _____ do that that you will be prepared to be his disciple in everything you do and everything you are. Otherwise, you'll park him in some special place and then you'll walk off and do stuff on your own. And most of your life will be devoted to you and not to God.
- f. **Be careful to remember what the Kingdom of God is: It's God _____.** Where I am in the Kingdom of God, I'm living in his care and provision, and his power is working with me. And everything I confront, good or bad, I confront as _____ in the _____ of _____. That is part of what we've been learning more of as we lead our apprenticeship time with Jesus.

3. Learning to be like Jesus

- a. I am with Jesus, in all of my circumstances, _____ to be like _____.
- This is not easy to translate into our habits of thought and feeling, so we have to understand that it's something you work at.
 - We get a lot of help from looking at how the people did and talked about it in the Bible

Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God
Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 1
© Dallas Willard Ministries

We learn to do this!

- Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.* Trust there is expectation: I _____ him to be with me. How do I do it? I keep my _____ on him.
- Psalm 16:8 *I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.*
- 1 Peter 5:6-8 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the right time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*
- Proverbs 3:5-7 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him and he will smooth your paths.*

b. We have to _____ to do it; we have to _____ to do it; and then we _____ to do it.

- The core is expectation. We expect God to be with us, and we expect that that will be manifested in terms of what happens in us and around us.
 - Things will be given to us in our thoughts. Burdens will be lifted in our emotions. Circumstances that we can't understand and figure out what to do about will resolve themselves. "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." That's the heart of it!
 - We experience the Kingdom of God with us, and we look at those verses like Hebrews 13:5-6:

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say:

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?"

Open secret. That's what it's all about.

Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God
Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 1
© Dallas Willard Ministries

- c. The people who move on in discipleship will go on to receive the wonderful life of the Kingdom. They're the ones who constitute the high mountain peaks of Christian history. Read Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*; Thomas à Kempis; Madame Guyon....

4. What are We Learning as Disciples?

There are three kinds of things we're learning, but these are not separable, so don't think it. They are only separate for the purposes of analysis and discussion.

WHO IS AN APPRENTICE OF JESUS?
The Three Main Aspects of Discipleship

1. Learning to do as He did and He taught.
2. Learning to handle the ordinary events of daily life within the principles and power of God's Kingdom rule: e.g., running a business, a difficult committee meeting, a family dispute, writing a book, living through some political dispute.
3. Learning to act with God's power in bringing the Kingdom to bear on obvious human need, individual and social.

a. You're learning to do as he did and what he did.

- You don't do that by _____. You may need some willpower to get into it, but your learning is in the _____ that results.
- Human beings are constructed so that they learn by _____ and have a _____ about what they learn. They are able to learn in such a way that they can then build on top of that and do other things while this [habituation] is going on down here.
- In the Kingdom of God, you're _____. And as you learn, you have certain practices that help you. Some things become automatic, and then you are able to live interactive with God in the Kingdom as Christ teaches you.

Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God
Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 1
© Dallas Willard Ministries

- That shows up in the Great Commission: Teach them to do everything I said (Matthew 28:20).
- Churches and church groups should have a plan to teach their constituencies to do what Jesus said. That's the path of discipleship.

In the next video, **Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 2**, Dallas continues to teach the three things we are learning as disciples. The three things are not actually separable; you have to learn all of them. In Part 2, Dallas says that doing one without the others will create serious problems. He also considers these questions: *Where is the place of discipleship?* and *Does the gospel I'm preaching have a natural tendency to produce disciples?*