

LIVING THE ETERNAL LIFE NOW

SESSION EIGHT:
BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS
NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN

1

CHRISTIAN BUT NOT DISCIPLE

- This is an accepted fact today.
- Explains why many Christians are no different in character and power from many non-Christians.
- “Eternal life now” is something learned through a process of training and at the same time is a gift of grace.

2

THE GREAT COMISSION

“I have been given say over all things in heaven and in earth. As you go, make disciples of all kinds of people, surround them in Trinitarian reality, and teach them to do all things I have commanded you. And now look: I am with you always, until the job is done.” Matt. 28:18-20

3

THREE PARTS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. Make disciples, apprentices to Jesus in Kingdom living.
2. Submerge them in the Trinitarian life that flows in the community of disciples of Jesus. Baptism symbolizes this.
3. Teach these disciples to do — showing them how to do — everything Jesus said.

4

WHO IS THE DISCIPLE?

- One who trusts Jesus Christ for everything, knowing He is indeed the Lord of life, master of everything.
- One who is **with** Him, learning **from** Him how to lead their life in the Kingdom of God as He would lead their life if He were they.

5

SPIRITUAL FORMATION IN CHRIST

- Christian spiritual formation is the process of transforming all essential dimensions of the self toward Christlikeness.
- It presupposes the birth from above and the constant action of the Holy Spirit.
- It also presupposes relentless action by the individual in obedience to the word of God.
That is: Discipleship

6

THE THREE MAIN ASPECTS OF DISCIPLESHIP

- Learning to do as He did and taught. Sermon on the Mount again. I Cor. 13.
- Learning to handle the ordinary events of daily life within the principles and power of God's rule. (e.g. a business, a committee meeting, etc.)
- Learning to act in God's power. Acting and Praying.

7

THE PLACE OF DISCIPLESHIP

- The place of discipleship is wherever I am now, and whatever I am doing now.
- I am learning from Jesus how to do everything I do in the Kingdom of God. (Col 3:17)
- Our work/job is of special importance in discipleship, for that is where we put most of our time and effort. To leave God out of that is to exclude Him from most of our life.

8

DISCIPLINES ESSENTIAL TO DISCIPLESHIP

- Learning to live in the Kingdom of God requires activities that make us available for the action of the Kingdom in our lives and the transformation of our habits.
- Jesus subjected his apostles to long periods of disciplines as part of their training.
- Study, scripture memorization, and fasting

9

WHAT IT TAKES TO LEARN THIS REALITY

- Vision
- Intention
- Means

10

THE GOOD NEWS: LIFE NOW IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- If we would live in the resources of Jesus, we must preach what he preached in the manner he preached it.
- “Repent, for the Kingdom of the Heavens is right here now (‘at hand’).” Matt. 4:17
- His three-fold practice: Preach, Manifest, and Teach. Matt. 4:22 & 9:35, Luke 4:43.

11

JESUS’ GOSPEL

- Leads into whole-life discipleship—learning to live our lives in the Kingdom of God as He would lead our lives if He were we—
- Not just Consumer Christians.
- And into the progressive transformation of human personality from inside out, all the dimensions of the self.
- Yielding a radiant church, the saints in light. Col. 1:12 & Eph. 5:8-9.

12