

Olive Drive Church

Lesson 68: Thursday January 19, 2017

**HANDOUT**

**Q103. How does the Church live in this world?**

The Church lives as worshipers of Jesus, making disciples, giving glory to God in all things.

There are three very important markers of the Church in that answer. Remember, we are talking about the Universal Church, so this is about ALL Christians. All Christians are to be living as worshipers of Jesus, making disciples, giving glory to God in all things.

Let’s start at the end of that answer, because it is absolutely critical to get right. We must realize that everything that God has planned and everything we do is for the glory of God.

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

This is so important. Do you realized this must be the marker of your life? Are you a Christian? Then you are a worshiper of God! Is that how you live? Is that what people say about you? Have people heard you worshiping Jesus? Look at these passages:

Psalm 105:1-3 Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Psalm 96:1-5 Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Psalm 96:10 Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

And that transitions us to our big focus for tonight. How does the Church live in this world? The Church lives as worshipers of Jesus, making disciples, giving glory to God in all things.

“Making disciples” -- Let’s focus on how all Christians, all worshipers of Jesus, are to be in discipleship: being discipled, and when readied, making disciples.

God is committed to His plan from eternity past that He have a people for Himself who exist to worship Him; therefore, worship is the goal and the fuel of discipleship.

Our worship of Jesus, or public proclamation of Him and His gospel, feeds our discipleship. The first requirement of being a disciple of Jesus is being saved into Jesus. Discipleship begins with saving faith in Jesus.

Important note here: We must not just evangelize then consider our work done!

That’s like seeing a baby being born and then leaving it on the curb. Emotional and such about the birth, but careless and hands-off in the raising and instructing of that little one. That’s why God ordained, and our Lord Jesus in the flesh commanded, discipleship: so we can be His practical means under His providential work, to instruct and care for true converts.

Our next question tonight is:

**Q104. What is the *Great Commission* Jesus gave to His Church?**

He commissions His Church to be discipled and make disciples among all nations.

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus begins with, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me; therefore…” Jesus says to His disciples (by the way, if you are a Christian then this is to you as well), “I have authority over everything; since that is the case, you need to go. Go and make disciples.” Then He ends it with one of my absolute favorite verses: “And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 10:16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,

18and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

26“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

What have you and I to fear? Not death, for the One who holds the power of death and life and eternal standing is the very One who has called us to go and promises to be with us!

Discipleship is hard! It does have a cost, but what are you losing by avoiding it? What is the lack of discipleship costing you? It does cost us greatly to not live in the commanded will of God. Be sure of that. This is a cost you don’t want.

But discipleship will also cost you. It will cost you temporary things--things worth giving up for King Jesus.

Luke 14:25-33 ESV [25] Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, [26] “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. [27] Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. [28] For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

[29] Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, [30] saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ [31] Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? [32] And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. [33] So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, it will cost you temporal things no doubt: perhaps retirement, comfort, family, toys, and wealth, but what do you get in return? You get Jesus! Is He worth it to you? Is He your highest aim; is Jesus the thing you want most in this life? If so, then are you being discipled? Are you discipling? If Jesus is your highest love, then you will obey His commandment no matter the cost.

If you obey Jesus, will you have to be single the rest of your life? It is possible.

If you obey Jesus, will you have to work a job every day the rest of your life until you die? It is possible.

Will you have to give up a job that causes you to be absent too much to truly do discipleship? It is possible.

Just listen again with fresh ears to what the Apostle Paul says about this:

Philippians 1:20-21 ESV [20] as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. [21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 3:7-11 ESV [7] But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—[10] that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11] that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Paul declares that all things are as nothing compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus as our Lord. “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Discipleship is you trusting the person who’s discipling you with every aspect of your life. You come to your discipler and you say, “Here is my life: any area at all, you have access to it. What do I do, how do I honor and follow Christ?” This is something you must want to do. You can’t come halfhearted, or you will waste your time and theirs. Jesus gave His parting commission to the church, saying, “Go, make disciples of all nations…” Church, you cannot be a discipler until you’ve been discipled, and you can’t be a disciple if you’re not all in.

**Luke 24:47 “**…repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

**1 John 1:7** ...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**2 Timothy 2:2** (NASB) The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

**Titus 2:3-5** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

**Ephesians 4:25** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**Romans 15:14** I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**Q105. How do we honor the Great Commission?**

Based on the Bible, we follow and learn from mature Christians, and we teach others to rightly know and obey Jesus.

**Discipleship:** Follow and learn from more mature Christians and do the work of disciple-making ourselves--calling people to saving faith, then training them in sound doctrine and how live as imitators of Christ.

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”