

simplify : fourth

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (P. 698)

Week of January 29, 2012

Message 4

The Great Commission (Assignment)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

In your experience, how good are churches these days at making disciples? What do churches do right? Where are churches falling short?

Jesus implies two "disciple-making" processes in this verse. One is the process leading to baptism. The other is the process leading people toward obedience.

If you have ever led someone to receive Christ as savior, share your story.

If you have ever "discipled" someone toward maturity, share your story.

Which do you feel stronger at doing—leading people toward salvation and eventual baptism or leading people toward obedience and maturity?

What holds us back from doing those two things? What holds you back?

Vision for 2012...

Sunday night was our Vision Dinner, and I spent some time talking about where we will be going as a church in 2012. I first recognized that 2011 was a year of getting our infrastructure in place. During 2011, we became fully recognized as a church (no longer a "church plant") with Converge Worldwide, we established a set of bylaws with certain authority given to members, we developed strong financial stability, improved our facility, and mobilized many new leaders. However, we saw very few salvations and baptisms. In light of that, our goals for 2012 are to use our stable infrastructure to do the disciple-making process really well. We will take big risks to reach out to people and help them find salvation, plus we will invest many hours into nurturing people toward spiritual maturity.

Spend the rest of your time together in prayer asking God to (1) empower us to connect with many people who don't know him, (2) help us lead many toward salvation and baptism, and (3) help us nurture many to maturity.

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