

Embracing True Discipleship



Isaiah 60:1-3, John 8:28-32

- This is the Year to Rise Up and Reach Out! There has never been a better moment and a better season than right now.
 - This is a season of growth, but with growth comes with its own unique set of challenges.
 - We must not be afraid of the moment nor the challenges that are before us.
 - Let's rise up and reach out by embracing our challenges with a singular focus on Christ Jesus. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
 - Let's rise up and reach out by embracing Christ's message, mission and passion with a joyful heart to see people lives transformed for Christ.
- What is the Biblical definition of the word "arise?"
1. The word "arise" means to rise, to stand up, to be stirred up, to awake, to be in a state of readiness or to prepare for action (call to service).
 2. It is synonymous to the word to proceed, to come forth, to follow, to spring forward, to soar, to emerge, to grow, to come to light, and to develop.
 3. The word "arise" can also mean or indicate new seasons, increase, overflow, enlargement or expansion of territory. (Joshua 1:1-9)
- Purpose: To ensure that every member is equipped and ready to assist us in making disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - Goal: To grow in our understanding of discipleship as we prepare our hearts for the harvest that God is sending.
 - Spiritual Principles: Authority, Obedience, Stewardship, Agreement, Grace, Faith
- Objectives Lessons:
 1. Purpose of Discipleship
 2. Process of Discipleship
 3. Priority of Discipleship
 4. Patience of Discipleship
 5. Passion of Discipleship

A. Discipleship and evangelism do go hand and hand. (Matthew 28:19-20)

- **The Process of discipleship and evangelism can become non-existent when believers begin to focus more upon the things of the world than Jesus Christ.**

○ **There are Three areas that every believer must guard against:**

- 1. Distractions: Don't allow distractions to cause your heart to be filled with doubt and unbelief. Keep your eyes set on Jesus Christ. (Colossians 3:2)**
- 2. Deception: This is an hour of great deception. Stay grounded in Jesus Christ and His Word. (Psalm 119:105)**
- 3. Discouragement: Remember you are not alone. God will never abandon you. (John 14:27, Hebrews 13:5-6)**

○ **There were Three (3) D's that we must remember this year as we "Rise Up and Reach Out."**

- 1. Stay devoted to God.**
- 2. Stay disciplined. (to prayer, fasting, studying of the Word of God)**
- 3. Stay away from anything that will distract you from the mission of Jesus Christ.**

B. The Believer must embrace the ABC's of Discipleship.

- 1. They will embrace the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20)**
- 2. They will embrace the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8, John 14:16-17, 16:13-14)**
- 3. They will embrace Evangelism. (Acts 2:41-47)**
- 4. They will embrace the urgency of Christ to reach the lost with the gospel message. (John 4:34-35)**
- 5. They will embrace the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:11-13)**
- 6. They will embrace Prayer. (Luke 18:1, 1John 5:14-15, Matthew 6:6-8)**
- 7. They will embrace Praise and Worship. (Psalm 95:6)**

C. We must Embrace that God created us to thrive and not just survive. (John 10:10)

1. Before God brought man into existence, He made sure that everything around them was flourishing, in abundance, overflowing, and fruitful. (Genesis. 1:1-31, 2:4-25)

- **God gave Adam “dominion” (stewardship, administrator, manager) over everything He had created. (Genesis 1:26-28, Psalms 8:4-8)**
- **God gave Adam the responsibility to name all the animals – Whatever Adam named them that was their name. (Genesis 2:19-20)**
- **God didn’t bring Adam and Eve into a world of chaos and dysfunction. Everything they needed was right there in the Garden. (Genesis 1:1-2, 2:8, 15)**
- **God brought them into a world that was organized and everything that He created; it brought glory and honor to Him. (Genesis 1-2)**

2. God created everything with purpose and ability to excel in its environment.

- **Fish are given a body of water (rivers, lakes, oceans) to excel in.**
- **Plants and trees are given soil to excel in.**
- **Birds are given the air in the sky to excel in.**
- **Believers are given the local church to excel in (to be equipped for the work of Jesus Christ) (Ephesians 4:11-16)**

1) The local church is the environment God has created to assist new converts in the transformation process of growing from spiritual immaturity to spiritual maturity.

2) The local church is there to assist them in the process of becoming a disciple and true follower of Jesus Christ.

D. We must Embrace what Jesus called us to be. (Matthew 5:13-16)

- **(vs. 13) – “You are the salt of the earth...”**

1. Jesus says, “You are” the salt of the earth.”

- **Notice Jesus didn’t say, “You have the option of being the salt of the earth.”**

2. Jesus makes it very clear that being “salt” of the earth is not an option. “Jesus said to His disciples, “You are the salt of the earth.” (vs. 13)
 - If you are a born-again believer and enjoy Christ’s wonderful gift of salvation, then you are the salt of the earth.
3. Jesus Christ uses “salt” as a metaphor to describe the life and witness of a believer. What are some of the characteristics of salt? (Matthew 5:13-14)
 - a. We are the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13)
 - There are some of the disciples who were experienced fishermen by trade, were very familiar with this metaphor that Christ was using.
 - In Jesus’ day, refrigeration did not exist, so the fish that were caught would quickly spoil and rot unless it was packed in salt.
 - The skilled fishermen would pack the fish in salt, which allowed them to safely store the fish and use it as needed.
 - b. Salt is distinctly different. By nature, and by purpose it is different. So it is true with every true believer. (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)
 - Believers are called and designed (made) to be salt of the earth.
 - c. There are several characteristics of Salt:
 - Salt preserves. It keeps things from going bad and decaying. It cleanses and disinfects. (1 Peter 1:22-25)
 - Salt penetrates. It inserts a new quality, substance and life. It changes that upon which it is put or applied. (Ephesians 4:24)
 - Salt flavors. It influences the taste of things. It takes a bland, tasteless food and makes it enjoyable. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - Salt induces thirst. As believers the quality of our lives should make people want what we have which is Jesus Christ. (John 4:15)
 - Salt that becomes tasteless or loses its flavor is good for nothing (vs. 13).
 - d. Jesus asked the question, “How shall it be seasoned?” In other words, how can its saltiness be restored. (vs. 13)
 - Jesus knew the significance of salt as a preserving agent was critical to preserving food.

- Jesus gives a very clear warning to believers, “Salt that has lost its flavor or taste, is good for nothing, except to be thrown out and trampled under the foot of men.”
 - Jesus knew there was nothing worse than salt that had lost its usefulness or effectiveness.
 - (vs. 14-16) – Jesus says, “You are the light of the world...”
1. Jesus says, “You are” the light of the world.”
 - Notice Jesus didn’t say, “You have” the option of being the light of the world.”
 2. What are some the characteristics of light and how Christ uses it as a metaphor to describe the life and witness of a believer?
 - The Greek word “light” is used similar to the word “beacon”.
 - The believer’s life should be used as a “beacon” that shines bright like a lighthouse that lights up the ocean waters.
 - The believer’s life should be a steady reflection and illumination of Jesus Christ both in our life and witness in the world.
 - God wants to use every one of His children like a beacon of light from a lighthouse – to show people to Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2:15)
 - a. God is light and there is no darkness in Him. (1 John 1:5-10)
 - The light of Jesus Christ should radiate from the life of every true disciple of Jesus Christ.
 - God brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)
 3. We are the light of the world. The purpose of light is to shine and to drive away darkness.
 - The world needs the light of Jesus Christ because it has the power to pierce through spiritual darkness.
 - What is the purpose and characteristic of light?
 - Light is clear and pure. It is clean, that is good, right, and true. (Eph. 5:8-9)
 - Light penetrates. By nature, it cuts through and eliminates darkness. (1 Thess. 5:5)
 - Light enlightens. It enlarges a person’s vision and knowledge of an area. (John 12:35)
 - Light reveals. It opens up truth of an area, a whole new world, and it clears up the way to the truth and the life. (John 14:6)

- **Light guides.** It directs the way to go, leads along the right path. (John 12:46)
- **Light strips away the darkness.** (John 3:19-20)
- **Light warns.** It warns of dangers that lie ahead in a person's path. (Ephesians 3:11-14)
- **Light protects.** It protects a person from the dangers of darkness, from stumbling, falling, and injuring himself. (Romans 13:12)