

MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 4 APPLICATION

 **ACTION:** Please continue to commit each week's study time to the Lord, asking Him to teach you everything He desires you to learn.

Promoting Spiritual Growth

 **READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

God's Spirit resides within each believer because genuine transformation occurs from the inside out. Attempting to develop change through any other means is merely an effort to modify behavior.

 **WRITE:** Why is attempting to merely modify behavior spiritually risky in the process of making disciples?

 **1 Timothy 6:12**

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** How will you explain to those you disciple their role in responding to Christ's supernatural work within them?

Teachability

 **James 1:22**

 How would you explain the significant spiritual difference between a person being merely approachable versus them being teachable?

Each area of an individual's life that fails to mirror the truth of God's Word may potentially stumble others in their spiritual walk.

 For this reason, spend time this week considering your personal level of teachability.

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Are you consistently inviting the Lord to penetrate your heart and life with His truth?

 Would others consider you to be teachable, desirous of learning all God has to teach you with the intent of obeying Him? _____ If "no", why not? (Be specific.)

 Are you easily offended by the criticism of others or do you take each comment to the Lord, allowing Him to show you whether or not the criticism reflects His truth?

- ✦ Ask God to show you ways to increase your level of teachability.
- ✦ Ask the Holy Spirit to make you specifically sensitive to any issues of pride in your life that might prevent you from accepting and walking in truth.
- ✍ List below some intentional, practical habits you plan to establish this week to become increasingly teachable.

 **Psalm 119:33-34**

- ✍ What words and phrases provide evidence of the psalmist's desire to be teachable, and his purpose to gain understanding and obey truth?

- ✍ Keeping in mind that obedience to our Lord Jesus is one step at a time in His direction, how would you explain to others that walking in obedience begins with being teachable?

 **Psalm 25:4, 86:11**

In discipling others, it is essential that we be able to explain and demonstrate personal teachability. Unless we consistently prepare to learn from the Lord, we can easily become distracted by the busyness or hurry of the day, the difficulties of life, and the people around us. As a result, the opportunity to hear, receive, and apply truth can easily be lost.

 Remember, we cannot make someone teachable. But we can promote teachability in others, by praying for God to give them the desire to learn from Him and by asking Christ-centered questions rather than merely providing answers.

 As you make disciples, **listen carefully for responses** that people give that may reflect a lack of teachability. For example, a person may consider himself to be too old to learn new things. Also, **watch for behaviors** that demonstrate a person's lack of teachability. For example, a person may tell you they want to grow spiritually, yet they cut short conversations with you about spiritual matters.

 **John 5:17**

Show those you disciple that, because God is continually at work around us, He has something to teach us about Himself throughout each day.

A Call to Surrender

 **Romans 10:9-10**

Even though it is our goal to teach everything God has commanded, please be mindful that many people have made spiritual decisions based on a limited understanding of what Jesus has provided: They know only salvation from sin's penalty, resulting in eternal life. This teaching reflects merely partial truth since it overlooks the significant fact that Jesus gave His life so that we, in turn, would give ours to Him through the act of repentance and complete surrender

to His will. A person who accepts Jesus as Savior without allowing Him to be Lord will most likely continue in the ways of the flesh and, therefore, continue to struggle spiritually.

2 Peter 1:3-4

Believers have been equipped with everything needed for life and godliness, so they may experience completeness in Christ and escape the corruption in the world.

 Teach those you disciple that the things found in Christ are eternal, but the things of the world are temporal, resulting in corruption and decay.

Verse 4 tells us that the cause of corruption is evil desires. Since people may not consider their desires to be evil, take time to consider other words that could be used in place of the word, evil. A synonym for evil is sin, and selfishness is sinful because it opposes God. Therefore, sin and selfishness could also be considered evil. Our holy God wants His children to escape the world's corruption that is caused by evil, selfish desires.

 Where does desire originate?

Although desire can be stimulated by something external, the root of desire is internal. By equipping each believer with the indwelling Holy Spirit, He can control desires at their place of origin, the inside of each heart. Since the Holy Spirit is continually available to us and unlimited in every way, we have immediate access to the power needed to withstand the world's temptations. However, the choice of whether or not to surrender to the Spirit's authority, allowing Him permission to do so, is ours.

 How do you know whether your desires are in line with what God desires?

 Develop the habit of inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal any personal desires that are not from God and ask Him to help you correct these.

 Consider for yourself the drawbacks of allowing Jesus to have complete control of one's life.

 You may want to also ask the person you are discipling to consider the disadvantages of giving God control. Help them to understand that one who gives God full control should no longer demand or pursue living according to their own selfish way.

 Consider for yourself the benefits of completely surrendering one's life to Jesus, choosing to live under the full control of the Holy Spirit.

 You may want to ask the person you are mentoring to also consider the benefits of complete surrender.

A person who chooses to live surrendered to the authority of Jesus Christ will walk according to the desires of the Spirit rather than the flesh. They will experience freedom from temptation and sin, develop Christ-like character, and pursue a lifestyle that is pleasing to God which will result in a life of peace.

Romans 6:16-19, 8:5-8

TRUE | FALSE: A person is led by the one to whom he or she is yielded.

 What is the mindset of one who is yielded to Jesus?

 **Reread Romans 8:5-8, 13-14**

 What is the evidence or proof that a person is truly a son or daughter of God?

Notice the significant order of Paul's teaching:

1. One first surrenders their mindset—**yielding** to the Spirit rather than to thoughts of the flesh.
2. Then, they choose to live being led by the Spirit—**laying down** the habits of the flesh and **surrendering** to the authority of God's powerful work within them.

 **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

Although the word “blessed” appears early in this verse, the blessing received from the Lord comes after a person's act of trust. Surrendering your life to Jesus is a daily act of trust through faith in Him. One who finds complete confidence in God will be like a tree whose roots are well developed, strong and firm:

- Their faith will grow deeper, enabling them to stand secure.
- They will not fear or worry, but will rest in the knowledge and belief that God is in control of all things.
- Since they walk by faith, regardless of the appearance of the situation, their focus is on truth.

 **REMEMBER:** A life fully surrendered and reliant on Christ bears fruit by bringing honor and glory to the name of Jesus.

 Even though the following exercise was taught in class, please take time to complete it for yourself. In doing so, you will not only be allowing Christ to further evaluate your personal level of surrender to Him, but will also be better equipped to train others to do the same.

1. Think about words that you would use to describe various areas of your life (family, job, work, church, friends, school, etc.)
2. Write these words on a piece of paper in the order in which you would prioritize them.
3. Then, consider how subtle the world's way of thinking can be. For instance, the world would tell us that in order to maintain happiness in our lives we need to keep our priorities in order. So, using this theory, if our job currently has a higher priority than our family, moving our family into a higher position of priority would make them and us happier. But that isn't necessarily true, especially for the long term.
4. Now, take your piece of paper and write the words again on an even line from left to right.
5. Write the word “God” over each heading. This represents the fact that God desires to have authority over everything in our lives; the number one priority in each and everything we do.

 **Matthew 22:37**

God's first and greatest commandment should be first priority in the lives of His followers. In order to love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, one must first be consumed by Him. God asks us to love Him with our entire being so that, in turn, He will teach us to love the world as He does.

✚ With this verse in mind, follow the steps below:

1. Take each word used to describe the various areas of your life.
2. Under each word be as specific as possible with the people and things that belong there. For instance, under *family* you may want to list each family member by name, as well as personal responsibilities involved with your household. Under the heading of *job*, you may want to list the name of your boss, co-workers, and specific duties required of you.
3. Do the same until all lists are complete.
4. Then, ask yourself the following questions for each item listed while relying on the Holy Spirit for insight. It may be beneficial to make notes of what He reveals to you.
 - Did I engage in this relationship or activity as a result of following Christ's lead?
 - In what ways am I currently following the Lord's lead in this activity or relationship?
 - What evidence is there that Christ has first place in this part of my life?
 - Do I cling to my own goals and ideas of what should and shouldn't happen in this area of my life, or do I live fully yielded to God's desires concerning each detail?
 - How is this relationship or activity honoring to Jesus?
 - Now, for the most important question: Am I willing to surrender complete authority to God, allowing Him to teach me to change anything about my life He deems necessary?

✚ If the answer to this last question is yes, ask the Lord to reveal His will concerning each specific area of your life and be obedient to make any changes God shows you.

💡 Regardless of the biblical truth being taught, obedience always involves surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

In **Philippians 1:6** Paul reminds us that God will carry out the initial work He began in us at the point of salvation. This means that even though bringing your life under the authority of Christ may take time, effort, and trust; you can rest in the fact that God will enable you every step of the way as you continually yield to His will.

Sanctification

📄 **Romans 6:9-13**

✚ List all the phrases from this passage that reflect a life of sanctification.

Sometimes a person will want to know how far they can move or act in a particular direction without it being considered sin. However for one who desires to be sanctified, this line of thinking is incorrect. A correct way of thinking would be: How can I grow closer to Jesus? Believers walking in obedience to Jesus draw lines in their lives that represent separation between them and a particular action or activity. The first line is drawn when a person is initially separated from sin. Then, through the sanctifying work of God's Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit, they will draw new lines as they consistently walk in obedience to Christ, being further separated from sin.

➡️ Develop a habit of being sensitive to the questions being asked by those you disciple. Do the questions reflect a desire to pursue righteousness or the things of the flesh? Will the answer to the question being asked result in actions that reflect God's best? Rather than just considering the answers to the questions others have, train each person to consider whether they may possibly be asking the wrong questions.

➡ Asking questions from a godly, rather than a worldly, perspective is more likely to influence a person to consider choices that reflect a life that is sanctified or set apart to God. For example, the person you are mentoring asks you if it is acceptable to engage in an activity in which others who claim Christ are involved. However, truth teaches that God has a perfect plan for each one of us and that we should not base our choices on the decisions of others, or be pressured by peers. So, rather than look to others, it would be more beneficial to ask questions that consider God's perspective:

- Does the Bible have anything to say about the activity I'm considering?
- Does the choice I'm considering reflect God's best?
- Will the outcome of this decision glorify God?

Because Scripture teaches that believers are sanctified by truth, training others to use truth in making choices will aid in helping them set themselves apart to God.

⚡ **TO ENCOURAGE:** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (**Galatians 2:20**)