**THE GREAT COMMISION**

Jesus tells us that all authority is given unto Him in heaven and in earth. Basically, this can be said to mean that He can do whatever He wants. The following is what He wants. May those who love Him spare nothing to see that Jesus gets what Jesus wants. The Great Commission may be seen as three-fold.

 **(A) Make disciples, that is, disciplined learners.**

 **(B) Baptize them, and in view of Romans 6:3&4, teach them all the riches of their perfect standing in Christ.**

 **(C) Teach the grounded disciples to do with others what you have done with them (reproduction).**

**A. DISCIPLESHIP**

We will use as our template for discipleship Luke 14:25-35. Jesus gave three conditions which, if not met, one cannot, is not able (Gr. ou dunatai) to be His disciple. This is not Jesus forbidding them to be a disciple. He is simply saying, without these three conditions met, it won’t work. There are, then, three areas of priority, ***family, our comfort zone, and material possessions.***  If any of these come before Christ, they prohibit effective discipleship, and being a reproducer.

 **(1) OUR FAMILY** – It may be said that there is no priority more emphasized by Jesus than this, which may get in the way of discipleship. Consider the following:

Exodus 20:3 – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Luke 14:26 – “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”

Matt. 10:34-37 – “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” See also Luke 12:51-53.

Matt. 12:46-50 – “While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and they brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched for this hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.” See also Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21.

Mark 6:3-4 – “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.” See also Matt. 13:53-58.

Luke 9:59-62 – “And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at my home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” See also Matt. 8:19-22.

Mark 10:28-31 – “Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.” See also Matt 19:27-30; Luke 18:28-30.

 **(2). OUR COMFORT ZONE** – simply stated, rejecting true discipleship because it invades our “comfort zone,” will always prevent one from being an effective disciple of Christ.

Luke 14:27-30 – “And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish.”

(It might be remembered that crucifixion was one of the most horrible methods of death by torture, the most humiliating, and the greatest expression of rejection that the world of this time had devised).

Matt. 16:21-26 - “From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him , and began to rebuke him, saying Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples I any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” See also Mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:21-26.

Luke 9:57-58 – “And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the son of man hath not where to lay his head.” See also Matt. 8:18-20.

John 15:18-21 - “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me.”

John 16:33 – “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

 **(3) MATERIAL POSSESSIONS** – It has been said that Jesus is not necessarily saying here that possession of anything material is wrong, but if the priority of having it, or obtaining it comes before my love and service to Christ, it must go.

Exodus 20:4 – “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,……Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:……”

Luke 14:31- 33 – “Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth ambassadors, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

1 Tim. 6:6-10 – “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Jesus’ overarching words for those who lack proper priorities in the above areas are:

“Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Luke 14:34-35.

***Honest, personal assessment in these areas of one’s priorities may go very far in preparing us to be world changing DISCIPLE-MAKING-DISCIPLES.***