

Go therefore and
make disciples of all nations ...

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

OUR 2024 THEME



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship & Communion Service

Sunday, January 7, 2024

SERVICES & CONTACTS


Sunday Worship Services in-person & live stream - 10:40am & 6pm

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

Join us for Sunday School in-person - 9:30am

There is a class for ALL ages

Midweek Service in-person & online (Wednesday)

 **ZOOM Noon** and repeated **7:30pm** | link provided

Youth Service in-person - 7pm (Friday)

 **WhatsApp**  **Signal**  **Telegram 845-5752** or Tel: **426-4707**

email: info@bereanbarbados.org

www.bereanbarbados.org

How Did Jesus 'Make Disciples'?

First, they worshiped him.

Before Jesus gave them any tasks to be done, any commission to fulfill, any directions as to how they might, in some sense, carry on his work once he was gone, first they went to their knees before him. Matthew reports that:

the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him . . . (Matthew 28:16-17)

Before they might imitate aspects of his human life, and echo his teachings in their own words and obedience, they bowed before Jesus — not only as man but God himself.

What's more, before Jesus uttered the lone imperative of his Great Commission to his men, for his church, he declared his unique authority: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18). The church has one Groom, one Chief Shepherd, one Lord, one risen Son seated at the right hand of the Father, supplying the Spirit. And more than that, when the disciples did receive their charge, it would be strikingly focused on "the Son" — baptizing in his name, with the Father and Spirit, and teaching all nations to observe all that Jesus commanded.

Yet, the other foot would land. Not only would utterly inimitable aspects of the God-man's life have their clear markings here, at his giving of the Commission, but his disciples would have a call to answer, a part to play, genuine obedience to render. There was actual imitation of their master to own and realize, however qualified it might be.

At the heart of this final, culminating report at the end of Matthew's Gospel stands a particular directive — work to be done, an imperative to heed, a mission to embrace, and yes, a pronounced dimension of Christ's life to imitate: make disciples.

He Made Them Fishers

How would this charge — one that encompasses all the other commands of Christ's teaching — have landed on his own men in that moment, and in the days and years that followed as they reflected on it? After all, this was the particular band who knew him best. These were his disciples. What might his disciples hear when he told his disciples to make disciples?

For Peter and Andrew, James and John, Jesus had first framed his call to disciple them in terms of their native profession. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Having been trained, their whole lives long, to use boats and nets to draw food from the sea, what would have been plain to them then, and all the more plain after three years with Jesus, was that you don't make fishermen, or disciples, overnight or in an instant.

Making good fishermen is a long, involved process, as they knew all too well. It requires teaching and training over time. Not only hearing, and internalizing, clear words of instruction and direction but also watching a master fisherman at work — and catching the unspoken rhythms and patterns of his craft. Such apprenticing requires, according to pastor Tom Nelson, "the kind of knowing that is difficult to capture in propositional terms or categories, but that emerges in the context of a close relationship and in the imitation of another" (The Flourishing Pastor, 94). Nelson cites philosopher Michael Polanyi (1891-1976) who calls it "tacit knowledge":

By watching the master and emulating his efforts in the presence of his example, the apprentice unconsciously picks up the rules of the art, including those which are not explicitly known to the master himself. (Polanyi, Personal Knowledge, 53)

Such disciple-making, as seen in the life of Christ, involves more than formal, verbal instruction. Disciples not only hear their master talk about his craft, but they watch him at work, and then receive ongoing instruction as he, in turn, watches their early efforts and speaks into their emerging abilities.

Now You Make Fishers

How, then, did this spiritual fisher-making unfold during Jesus's ministry? In Matthew's Gospel in particular, from Jesus's summons in chapter 4, to his commission in chapter 28, it is remarkable to observe his recurring attention to and prioritizing and investment in his disciples.

Again and again, from one chapter to the next, and often one account to the next, Jesus navigates public and private dimensions of life, showing rhythms of welcoming "the crowds" (in public) and then giving undivided attention to "his disciples" (in private). He is willing to receive and bless the masses as they come seeking, yet he himself seeks out his disciples, to invest in the few. (Observe it for yourself by skimming through the Gospel of Matthew and watching for the words crowd and disciples in the first and last lines of various sections.)

Jesus, the Master, had called them to follow him, and for more than three years, in setting after setting, in private homes and in the midst of great crowds, walking long journeys between towns and enjoying unhurried meals — one conversation at a time, one day at a time — Jesus had disciplined them. Christ himself showed them the Christian life, inside and out, in public teaching and private prayer. Now they too were to make disciples.

In particular, he says, "Disciple all nations" — which must have landed on them with at least a double force.

[see full article here: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-did-jesus-make-disciples>]

All He Commanded

Now, as we go — across the street, down the hall, to the church building or a coffee shop, into a new relationship or another appointment, or to the other side of town, or to a new state, or across an ocean, or to a new culture or language — we make disciples, offering our words and time and attention for months, even years, and putting forward our own lives as examples.

We exercise patience, speak with grace, answer simple questions with humility, and as disciples of Jesus ourselves, we point our "disciples" not finally to us, but to him. And when our focus is making disciples, rather than the modern fascination with drawing crowds, we find that life and ministry take a whole new tenor, perhaps even that of Christ himself.

And as we seek to live and minister more like him, we own afresh that Jesus is indeed unique. All authority is his. The commission is his. The church is his. The promise of divine presence is his. We worship him, and disciple others to do the same.

*David Mathis (@davidcmathis) is executive editor for [desiringGod.org](https://www.desiringgod.org) and pastor at Cities Church. He is a husband, father of four, and author of *Workers for Your Joy: The Call of Christ on Christian Leaders* (2022).*

Order of Service

January 7, 2023, 10:40 a.m.

“Share the Word; Make Disciples”

- 1 Call to Worship**
- 2 Meditation**
- 3 Prayer of Adoration**
- 4 Hymn: LH 82 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**
- 5 Prayer of Confession and Pardon**
- 6 Prayer of Thanksgiving**
- 7 Hymn: LH 41 – Now Thank We All Our God**
- 8 OT Scripture Reading: Genesis 1**
- 9 NT Scripture Reading: Matthew 1**
- 10 Pastoral Prayer**
- 11 Hymn: LH 287 – O God Our Help in Ages Past**
- 12 Offertory Hymn: LH 327 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**
- 13 Choral Selection**
- 14 Sermon: Acts 18:18-28**
- 15 Hymn: HG 272 – The Power of the Cross**
- 16 Communion**
- 17 Benediction**

LH: Living Hymns
HG: Hymns of Grace

ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- Give God thanks for bringing us through 2023 to see the new year 2024.
- For the friends of Berean – The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For our unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.
- For opportunities to share the gospel.
- For the salvation of souls.
- For healing for our sick members.
- For grace for our shut-in members.
- For the Berean Church families in The DR Congo, Grenada, and Dominica.

January Birthdays



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|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 – Mileke Sinckler | 15 – Hilton Piggott | 24 – Julia Sinckler |
| 5 – Bertram Hoyte | 19 – Gary Lloyd | 31 – Doreen Phillips |
| 6 – Christopher Boyce | 21 – Marion Manning | – Joan Shepherd |
| 9 – Joy Banfield | 22 – Colin Marshall | |
| 10 – Danica Knight | 23 – Leon King | |
| – Joyce Wells | – Truneal Kwang | |
| 11 – Judane Mitchell | – Janet Walton Bowen | |

February

- 1 – Tony Montague

Anniversaries



25 – Tyrone & Julia Lowe