

When Jesus ascended to heaven after his mission on earth, the angels asked Him: "Did you accomplish your task?"

"Yes, all is finished," the Lord replied.

"We have a second question," said the angels. "Has the whole world heard of you?"

"No," said Jesus.

The angels next asked, "Then what is your plan?"

Jesus replied, "I have left twelve men and some other followers to carry the message to the whole world."

The angels looked at Him and asked, "What is your plan B?"

Jesus looked very seriously at them and answered, "There is no plan B."

Jesus desires to reach the world through you and me.

What Christians are to be doing:

Kim Johnson writes, "In Peter's time there were probably about 7,500 Jewish priests living in and around Palestine... They were held in high esteem by the rest of Judaism and looked upon as special... The only thing the common people were expected to do was (1) show up at major religious functions and (2) bring the correct offerings." Spiritual Body Building, p. 22

1. The converted disciple, Peter came along and changed the whole paradigm with these words defining discipleship. What is that definition? 1 Peter 2:9
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2. Where on earth did Peter get this new and strange thought? Could this have something to do with what Jesus taught His disciples?

- a. What did Jesus say must happen before the end of the world? Matthew 24:14

- b. Sometime after His resurrection Jesus was at a table with His eleven disciples. What did He commission them to do? Mark 16:15

- c. Just before Jesus ascended back to heaven He gave the disciples the pattern for going out into the whole world. What was that pattern? Acts 1:8

3. From question #1 Peter describes a true disciple. Let's review Peter's definitions: (from 1 Peter 2:9)

- a. But you *are* a _____ generation,
 - b. a royal _____,
 - c. a _____ nation,
 - d. His own _____ people,
 - e. that you may _____ the praises of Him
 - f. who _____ you out of darkness into His marvelous light;



The point is that we have all been called! No follower of Jesus is left out.

4. To whom is the gospel message to be given? Revelation 14:6
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What must be the first step in becoming a disciple?

In this section we will look at just a few examples of people who have become disciples. Look for the common incident in their lives that made them disciples of Jesus.

Example #1: Andrew bringing his brother, Peter, to Jesus. John 1:40-42

One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he _____ him to Jesus.

Example #2: Following her encounter with Jesus what did a Samaritan woman do? John 4:28-30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, " _____ who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

Example #3: (Matthew 9:27-31) Two blind men were following Jesus and crying out for mercy. Jesus came to them asking whether or not they believed He could restore their sight. They told Jesus of their belief in Him and they were healed. Immediately Jesus sternly warned them to not tell anyone of their healing. "But they were hardly out the door before they started _____ it to everyone they met." (Quoted from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

From these examples what is the first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus?

When we truly meet Jesus and accept the salvation that only He offers we become His disciples. Telling others about Him is easy!



What is the Bible's definition of witnessing?

5. Notice what Jesus says to Nicodemus pertaining to witnessing. John 3:11
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Christ is telling the Pharisee that the Jews have both seen and heard, but have not believed. Our witnessing is not to force people to receive. Our part is to witness by telling others what we have seen and heard.

6. Now go to John 3:32 dealing with John the Baptizer's account of Jesus.
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That must have been discouraging but he kept on. True witnessing does not have to be giving Bible studies. That is included but true witnessing is simply telling people what Christ means to you. If Jesus is not peace and hope to you what are you going to witness about? When people see the joy, the peace, the hope in spite of problems that you might have, you are witnessing.

7. There is a very important caution to our witnessing. Pilate asked Jesus if he was a king. Let's let Jesus' words to Pilate help with this caution. John 18:37
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Be very careful to only witness the truth. We have to bear witness to the truth about God, about Jesus, about sin and about salvation. Don't become one of the false Christs or false prophets that Jesus talked about (Matthew 24:24).

8. We must remember our job description. Our job is witnessing and whether we witness and win no souls is not our problem. Luke 9:22
saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be _____ by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."
Can you imagine Jesus, the greatest Witness and yet they rejected Him and His message. So don't feel that you are a failure if people don't accept what you have witnessed. Jesus knows the right time and He will come back to those people.



For almost a half year I gave Bible studies to Emma whose husband had abandoned her and their new born baby girl. After completing 21 out of the 23 lessons she suddenly moved and I lost all contact with her. I was sick about this and felt that I had failed. A few years later I ran into her mother and inquired about my former student. Her mother told me that she had remarried and that both her and her husband had been baptized. I was shocked and wanted to know how that happened. I was told that one evening her new husband asked about the Sabbath and Emma remembered that she still had the lessons that we had studied. Emma and her husband began to study those lessons. Later they found a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and took more studies and were baptized. Later on I was visiting the Tampa First SDA Church. A young woman came up to me and asked if I remembered her. It was Emma and I was visiting the church of their membership. Jesus knows the right time and He will come back to those people.

9. Knowing what we should be doing is not a problem because Jesus gave us our commission. Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV
"Go therefore and _____ of all the nations, _____ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, _____ to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.
In our commission Jesus gave three steps. We must not get these out of order. Here are the three steps:
#1: Make disciples. A disciple is someone who follows a master or teacher. We must first bring people to Jesus and ask them to follow Him.
#2: The next step is baptize them (lesson #7).
#3: Then you teach them to observe all things that Jesus commands. The point here is that before they can accept Jesus' teachings, they must first experience and develop an eternal relationship with Jesus. Having taken this step they will gladly accept the Bible's teachings and become witnesses to make more disciples.
10. Witnessing for Jesus can be costly. What can we expect as we witness? Matthew 5:11-12 NKJV
"Blessed are you when they _____ and _____ you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your _____, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
When you accept Jesus' Gospel Commission and "go" you are invading the devil's territory. This means you have joined the great controversy but now you are on God's side. Don't expect Satan to leave you alone. The persecution can come physically, mentally, or socially. Jesus told His disciples to count the cost (Luke 14:26-33).

Four easy steps to becoming a disciple

11. Mark 3:14-15 → Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

Step #1: _____ We must understand that the gospel commission is given to every Christian. No Christian is left out. We are all ambassadors for Christ (See 2 Corinthians 5:20).

Step #2: _____ In order to be a disciple of Jesus we must be with Him. If we do not have a relationship with Jesus what will be our message?

Step #3: _____ We cannot keep the gospel to ourselves. We must go out. Jesus tells us, "You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept." (Matthew 5:13-16 from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

Step #4: _____ When Jesus commissions us He also gives us power through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

If we accept the call to discipleship what assurance do we have?

12. Considering His soon coming sacrifice, what two promises did Jesus make?
John 12:31-32

13. John 16:33 In the great controversy between Satan and Jesus Christ what did Jesus state that He had and will accomplish?



14. What personal promise did Jesus give to us? Matthew 28:20

Not only does Jesus promise to be with us, but the call to discipleship will extend until the end of the world. No Christian will be left out.

15. Review:

- Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast_____.
- Jesus will _____ all people to Himself.
- Jesus has _____ the world.
- Jesus promises that He will be with us _____, even to the end of the age.

Lessons from Jesus who restored Peter to discipleship even after Peter denied Him three times.

16. Jesus giving His ministry away to His disciples is evidenced in what He commissioned Peter to do just before His ascension. John 21:15-19

#1: Supreme love for Jesus. (Verses 15-17)How many times did Jesus raise the issue of Peter's love for his Master? _____ Two times Jesus asked Peter whether He loved Him. One time He asked him whether he loved Him more than the other disciples.



#2: Feed His sheep. (Verse 17) How many times did Jesus command Peter to help others to grow strong, reproduce, and multiply themselves? _____
Jesus commissioned Peter to make disciples. Love for Christ is the motivation. Our love for Jesus will manifest itself in the work of nurturing and equipping His people to be productive.

#3: Faithful unto death. (Verse 18) Discipleship can become a very costly business. What can it lead to? _____ A disciple who loves His Master supremely and faithfully tends His flock and is ready to give up life itself for Him.

#4: Follow Me: (Verse 19) Jesus ended the restoration of Peter to discipleship with the words, _____." Jesus is still offering the very same invitation to all of His disciples.

17. Are you willing to become a disciple of Jesus?

☐ Yes

☐ No