

The Christian's Main Goal

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-22

INTRODUCTION

- A. Discipleship was never designed to be an end in itself.
 - 1. It has a goal that is both rewarding and enriching.
 - 2. The good news of Jesus Christ is not to be hidden.
 - a. It is to be shared.
 - b. This sharing is to be continuous.
 - c. Those who are won to Christ are to pass that same information on so that eternal life in Him can be received by others, who, in turn, are to pass it on.
 - 3. Discipleship is never complete until the Christian make disciples.
- B. In our study today we shall find that the Old Testament contains a perfect analogy (in the physical realm) of the spiritual strategy developed in the New Testament.

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT ANALOGY: THE PHYSICAL

- A. Consider the commands.
 - 1. Read Genesis 1:28. (Be fruitful & multiply)
 - a. The first command God gave man was “I want you to reproduce.”
 - b. Notice what He did not say.
 - (1) He did not say, “I want you to learn.”
 - (2) He did not say, “I want you to be a worker.”
 - (3) He did not say, “I want you to worship Me.”
 - c. He said, “I want you to reproduce.”
 - d. There is an innate desire in all of us to reproduce.
 - 2. Read Genesis 8:17 and 9:1. (Be fruitful & multiply & fill the earth)
 - a. This was the first command God gave Noah after telling him to leave the ark.
 - b. Isn't that amazing?
- B. Now let us notice the barriers to reproduction.

What keeps folks from reproducing?

 - 1. *No partnership hinders reproduction!*
 - a. It takes a man and a woman for reproduction.
 - b. You cannot reproduce alone.
 - 2. *Disease is a barrier to reproduction!*
 - a. Social diseases brought on by immorality render some incapable of reproducing.

- b. They become unproductive.
- 3. *Immaturity is another barrier to reproduction.*
 - a. The very young cannot reproduce.
 - b. There must be maturity to have reproduction.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT STRATEGY: THE SPIRITUAL

A. God still wants spiritual babies born.

- 1. Jesus came and found a world lost.
- 2. He said, “We must go make disciples; we must reproduce.”

B. What was Jesus’ plan?

- 1. Read Matthew 4:19. (Follow me & I will make you fishers of men)
- 2. Read Luke 5:10. (From now on you will catch men)
 - a. Being a Christian does not end with your new birth.
 - b. It is not a dead-end street.
 - c. Jesus spent three years building into the apostles’ lives; they, then, built into others’ lives.
 - d. That is the way the gospel spread.
- 3. Read Matthew 28:19-20. (Go make disciples & baptized them)
- 4. The Book of Acts stresses the progress of the church.
 - a. Read Acts 2:41. (3,000 souls baptized)
 - b. Read Acts 4:4. (5,000 men were added)
 - c. Read Acts 5:14. (multitudes of men & women were added)
- 5. Now, brethren, let us ask ourselves, how are we doing in reproducing Christians?
 - a. The last command Jesus gave was, “Go make disciples . . .”
 - b. The first command God gave man was, “I want you to reproduce physically.”

C. What are the essentials and enemies to reproduction?

- 1. Read John 15:5. (Abide in Me and bear much fruit)
 - a. *The first essential is union with Christ.*
 - b. To bear fruit we must abide in Christ.
 - c. The enemy of union with Christ is independence.
- 2. Read Mark 4:8. (seed that fell on good ground produced 30, 60, 100-fold)
 - a. *The second essential is good health.*
 - b. The enemies or diseases are mentioned in Mark 4:19.
 - “the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful”*

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.

“¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?”

- a. We must be mature.
- b. The enemy of maturity is immaturity.

III. LET US NOW MAKE A PERSONAL APPLICATION.

A. The unproductive life is the unfulfilled life.

B. The productive life is the fulfilled life.

1. The real joy of being a Christian is reproducing.
2. The most fun as a Christian is assisting someone in becoming a Christian and helping them grow in Christ.

CONCLUSION

A. What shall then be our response?

1. “But I do not know how to reproduce!” you say.
2. Take a card off the pew in front of you, write down your name, give it to one of the men, and we will be glad to enroll you in a class and teach you how to be a soul-winner.

B. This sermon has not been preached to put you on a guilt trip, but to help you become productive.

C. Young couples in love want to reproduce and Christians in love with Christ want to reproduce.

D. Isn't it remarkable that the last command Jesus gave to His disciples was the first command that God said to man, “Be fruitful and multiply.”

E. Resolve today to get involved in soul-winning.

F. If you're not yet a Christian, you need to abide in Christ first.

1. How?
 - a. Galatians 3:27. (Put on Christ by being baptized into Christ)
2. Why?
 - a. In baptism, there is washing away of sins & forgiveness of sins
(1) Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38
 - b. For all have sinned. Romans 3:23

- (1) Regardless if you commit murder or not, if you steal or not or if you lie or not.
- (2) Because doing good will not bring us to heaven.