

MAKE DISCIPLES: OBEDIENT

As we explore the “Great Commission” we discover that Jesus was setting a pattern for how the task of making disciples was to be accomplished. The call to deny ourselves and take up our cross would be profoundly symbolised in the act of being baptised in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the call to follow Jesus would be lived out in an obedient life, governed by all that He has commanded us to do. However, the last thing on Jesus mind was dutiful service.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Mark 12:28-31

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Read Matthew 28:18-20 by way of review.

How does Jesus describe himself in v18? How does this truth set the context for v19-20?

V19 Who was Jesus inviting to be his disciples?

V19-20 What would be involved in this process?

V20 What is his promise?

In this study we are going to explore the phrase, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

OBSERVE -5083- to attend to carefully, take care of, keep

Read Mark 12:28-31. Mark commandment with a and mark love with a 

V28 What question does this scribe ask Jesus?

V30 Which commandment does Jesus put first?

How are we to love God? Reflect on each part.

V31 What is the second commandment Jesus lists?

How would prioritising these two commands help us obey ALL of Jesus commandments?

Obeying all Jesus commands is not simply a case of keeping rules. This was not what God intended. The night before Jesus died he taught his disciples what obedience truly meant.

John 14:15-17

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

John 14:21-26

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.
²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. ²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus is in the upper room with his disciples and as he prepares to leave then, he shares truths that will help them in the days ahead.

Read John 14:15-17. Mark love with a  mark commandment with a  and mark Spirit with a 


V15 What should motivate obedience?

V16-17 Who does Jesus promise to send?

What are we told about him?

Helper -3874- called to ones side, helper, aide, assistant

The OT prophets foretold the coming of the Spirit when God would make a new covenant.

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. Mark Spirit with a 
What did God promise with regards to his Spirit?

V27 What impact will the Spirit within have?

Read John 14:21-26. Mark the three words as above.

What is the relationship between love and keeping His commandments?

V21 How do the Father and Jesus respond?

V23 In what way does this response deepen?

V21-24 What is the connection between obeying Jesus commands and intimacy with God?

Reflect on how this would look in your life.

V26 What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this? How does this relate to what we read in Ezekiel 36?

Jesus desire is intimacy with us and we are not left alone in this endeavour. We have the Spirit as our helper, prompting us and enabling us.

John 15:8-14

⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Revelation 2:2-4

(Jesus letter to the church in Ephesus)

² "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

1 John 5:3

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Read John 15:8-14. Mark commandments with a and mark love with a 

V8 How is the Father glorified? What does this prove? **Relate this to the Great commission!**


V9-10,14 How are we loved? In what way can we live in the enjoyment of that love?

How does Jesus serve as our example?

V12 What commandment does Jesus give here? **Note the flow of love through these verses.**

How does all you have seen in John 14 & 15 reflect the two greatest commandments Jesus spoke of?

God's plan was us living in loving intimacy with Him as we lived lives of obedience. But often the fledgling church lost its focus. In Corinth there was an excessive focus on spiritual gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 mark love with a  and underline the last phrase in each verse.

How impressive are the gifts in these verses?

How fruitful as these gifts when love is absent?

Read Revelation 2:2-4 mark love with a  and mark "I know" with a

What did Jesus know about this church?

What was the one thing he had against them?

How would this look in our lives?

Read 1 John 5:3 mark commandment with a and mark love with a 

Burdensome -926- heavy in weight, grievous, severe

In what way does knowing that obeying all his commandments is rooted in love and intimacy make them less burdensome?

Is your understanding of obedience deepening your intimacy with God, or heightening your own sense of inadequacy and failure?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through it's mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

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