

A Heart for Discipleship

Part 1 of the *Disciple* series

Pastor Rich Warriner

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*Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”
“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.’”*

The man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.

*When Jesus saw this, he said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”
Those who heard this said, “Then who in the world can be saved?”*

*He replied, “What is impossible for people is possible with God.”
Peter said, “We’ve left our homes to follow you.”
“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.”*
Lk 18:18–30 NLT

Discontentment with the current reality is often the beginning of a new & better reality.

Missing parts of 21st Century Christianity:

- A faith that touches every sphere of life.
- People experiencing fruitful & fulfilling ministry.
- A depth of love & care for one another that makes the world take notice.
- A Biblical understanding of God and life.
- The church being a countercultural, city-changing force.

Two changes that need to be made:

- A new focus: a life of discipleship.
- A new method: discipleship through relationship.

The heart of a disciple is to follow Jesus no matter the cost.

The goal of the church is to make disciples who will make disciples.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

Next Steps

Memorize Matthew 28:18-20. As you reflect on this verse, ask Jesus to help you live it out.

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Have you ever had a time where your discontentment with life pushed you to pursue something better? (possibly a new job, new home, new church, etc.) Tell about it.
- Read the story of the rich man & Jesus found in Luke 18:18-30. Who do you relate to the most? The rich man, Jesus, or Peter? Explain. How do you think you’d respond if Jesus answered you today the same way He answered this man? What might that reveal about your heart?
- Read through the above list of things missing from 21st Christianity. Do you relate to any of these and if so, how?
- Where has following Jesus been costly for you and how have you seen God work through that?