**A Little Bit Dusty – Week 2 – Go and Make Disciples**

**April 17-18, 2021**

Let me ask you guys a question…has there ever been a time where you felt left out? Like you didn’t fit in or you weren’t as good at something the other kids were doing around you?

**(Teacher’s Note: Share an example from your days as a child or teenager where you personally felt left out or didn’t fit in.)**

The reality is all of us could use someone who will be our friend no matter what. A friend like…Benny “The Jet” Rodriguez! Yes! Who has seen the movie “The Sandlot?” If you haven’t seen it, Benny was the best baseball player in the neighborhood and he and his friends have formed a really good neighborhood baseball team. Scott Smalls moves to the neighborhood and struggles to make friends, but Benny just happens to live a few houses down and they’re one player short. Benny invites Scott to play baseball one day and, as it turns out, he stinks at baseball. He can’t catch or throw and he completely embarrasses himself. In fact, he runs all the way from the outfield to the pitcher’s mound just to hand the ball back (instead of throwing it!). Benny could have easily dropped Scotty like a bad habit, but instead, he does something very different.

**(Editor’s Note: Show “The Sandlot” message video)**

Scotty WORSHIPED Benny. He wanted to be just like him. You could say, in some ways, that he was Benny’s disciple. Well, the earliest disciples of Jesus were just like Scotty: they wanted to be like Jesus, talk like Jesus, do the things that Jesus did. As we talked about last week, disciples are learners! Today, we are going to study one of the most famous passages in all of Scripture. If you’ve been in church for any length of time, you may have heard it before. It’s more commonly known as The Great Commission. It is found at the very end of the book of Matthew in the New Testament in Matthew 28:16-20. Let’s read it together.

*“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 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.”*

This verse makes it very clear. Not only do we need to be disciples of Jesus, he has commanded us to go and make other disciples. In other words, being a true disciple – being a true follower of Jesus – includes being a disciple-maker. That’s where our focus is today our Take Home Point or THP. Let’s look at it together!

**THP: We need to become disciple-makers!**

Now going back to the verse we just read in Matthew, there are two very important elements in being a disciple: getting baptized AND obeying everything Jesus has commanded us to do.

How many of you are familiar with the term “baptism” or “baptized”? I’m sure at least some, if not most of you, have heard about it. This is a very important step in the life of a Jesus-follower. Here’s how I would describe baptism: **it is a public and OUTWARD sign of an INWARD change.** In the New Testament, one of the ways people showed others that they had become a follower of Jesus was to be baptized in water. In fact, the original language of the New Testament, Greek, defines the word baptism as “being immersed in water.” We see Jesus himself being baptized by a man named John The Baptist as a sign to others that he was going to live his life for God in everything that he did. Check out what Matthew says about Jesus’s baptism in the New Testament in Matthew 3:13-17:

*“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied,* ***“Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”*** *Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

Jesus always sets the example of how we should live…he SHOWS us AND he TELLS us (just like Benny did with Scotty). Jesus said the reason he is being baptized is “to fulfill all righteousness.” In other words, even though Jesus was perfect, he still wantd to show he was fully obedient to God and the message he believed in. That’s powerful. Here’s what that also means…and don’t miss this:**Jesus showed that baptism is a way of showing that we DIE to our old way of life and are made ALIVE in our new life with Christ. He ultimately does that by dying on the cross for our sins and then raising back to life (like we talked about last week).**

Here’s the second part of being a disciple: OBEDIENCE – obeying what Jesus commands us to do. When we become a disciple of Jesus Christ, we must obey what He tells us to do. Some of those things will be easy for some of us (maybe coming to church, being a part of Northview Students, praying, being nice to people). However, some of those same things will be hard for some of us! Then, there are commands that are almost impossible to do on our own (love our enemies, always forgive people, obey God’s commandments, be Christ-like in the way we live). We are imperfect people who serve a perfect God. However, with God’s help and the help of our Christian friends and leaders/adults around us, I believe we can do those things. It’s not by our own doing – it is His righteousness IN US that helps us do it.

**Here’s the thing: disciples aren’t just influenced by Jesus…they are completely CHANGED by Jesus. You may not have known this until now, but Jesus’s disciples left EVERYTHING from their old life and embraced their new life.**

We need to learn the things that Jesus teaches us and put them into practice. Maybe for you, it’s making a deeper commitment to be here at church and at Northview Students. Maybe it’s joining a life group and being in community with other followers of Jesus your own age. Maybe it’s honoring God with the words that you say. Maybe it’s showing better respect and obedience to your parents. Maybe it’s just (as Jesus said) “loving your neighbor.” I believe if we want to be a disciple, we must be obedient and allow God to help us in all areas of our life. I believe people will notice a change, whether you’ve been a Christian for a week or several years. If you actually start becoming like Jesus, it might cause the people around you to think, “What has happened to them?”

The thing I loved about the video clip that we watched from The Sandlot was how excited Benny was to help Scotty and how excited Scotty was to learn something new. That’s EXACTLY what a disciple AND a disciple-maker looks like. Once you become a disciple, you need to become a disciple-maker! As you are learning about God, what can you teach to others? How will you share your faith with others?

**Like our THP says, we need to become disciple-makers! A disciple-maker recognizes that they must LEARN and then SHARE. Learn…and then share. First, giving your whole life to God, learning what that means and how to live it out, and then sharing that with the world. THAT is how we become disciple-makers.**

During our time of discussion today, whether with your life group or some friends or family, I want you to talk about what steps you can take to become a disciple-maker. Who are the people in your life that YOU can help become a disciple? For some of you, you need to make the first step we talked – and that’s getting baptized. If you’re interested in doing that, tell your life group leader or contact the student pastor at your campus to find out when the next baptism service is. For others of you, it simply means “putting feet to your faith.” What I mean by that is to live it out – put your faith into action. That is the defining quality of a disciple-maker. Before we go to our group discussions, let me pray for you as we go into this week. **(Teacher’s Note: Pray and then finish the script. Be sure to hold a Journey devo as you finish the last part.)**

Before we finish today, I want to make you aware of a resource that the Northview Students staff team has put together for you to help you become a disciple and a disciple-maker. It’s a devotional called Journey. This is a book that helps you spend a few minutes per day or a few times per week reading Scripture, journaling, and spending time in reflection and prayer. If you are wanting to grow in your faith but don’t know where to start, this is a great resource for you. If you would like a copy of Journey, we would like to give you one for free – so just tell your life group leader or contact the student pastor at your campus and we will get you one. We want to do everything we can to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Thanks so much for being here at Northview Students, we love you guys and we hope you have an awesome week.