

Vision Sunday 2022
Matthew 28:19-20 – C4 Discipleship

Good morning and Happy New Year!

A) What does 2022 have in store for us?

B) We just got back yesterday from Oklahoma – see our new Grandson Jack Harrison Salvato for the first time.

C) Super excited that Jack will be carrying on the family name.

I couldn't help wondering- what does God have in store for this little guy?

A) What is he going to become, what will be need from me?

B) I think that is a normal thing to think about when it comes to kids,

C) It is also a normal thing to think about in reference to God's kids.

Paul the apostle definitely thought that way: He said this to the believers in Colossae –

²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present **every man** perfect (ie complete) in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. Colossians 1:28-29

Paul is saying when it comes to my work with the churches –

A) The thing that I am working hard towards is to present everyone complete in Jesus

B) My mandate – take seriously – Present you complete in Christ

C) When I stand before Jesus – I need to know that I did my part to faithfully teach the Bible –

1) and to the best of my ability with the help of the Holy Spirit – Model Jesus

D) Goal is to present you complete in Christ.

When Paul was writing to the church in Thessalonica he said something similar

⁹ How can we thank God for you in return for all the joy we experience before our God because of you,

¹⁰ as we pray very earnestly night and day to see you face to face **and to complete** what is lacking in your faith? 1 Thessalonians 3:9,10 CSB

Today is Jan 2 2022 – Usually on the first Sunday of the New Year I do a vision message – what does God have for us in the coming year.

A) As I was praying back in October about the coming year, the Lord put a couple of things on my heart

B) The first was this: Our vision for 2022 is the same as 2021 –

1) which has really been the overall vision of our church for 25 yrs - Deep and Wide

C) Deep in our love and knowledge of Jesus and Wide in our reach for Jesus!

D) The goal of CV is to know Jesus and to make him known!

A big aspect of that is what we refer to as Discipleship!

A) That is why I asked you to turn to Matthew 28 –

B) Before Jesus left planet earth and ascended into heaven,

1) he gave his disciples and the church as a whole what is known as the great commission.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

C) Notice Jesus didn't say to make converts or believers – He said go and make Disciples.

A Disciple is someone who is radically committed to Jesus,

A) A Person who's whole life is about knowing Jesus, living for Jesus and serving Jesus.

B) It has been said that not every believer is a disciple but every Disciple is a believer.

C) There are some people who believe (saved)– but quite frankly Jesus is just a part of their life.

1) They look to him in times of need –

2)they give him a few hours of time on Sundays and maybe once during the week.

D)But the rest of the week – they are pretty much living for themselves –

1)their goals, their pursuits – their plans – their dreams

A Disciples is one whose whole life revolves around their relationship with Jesus –

A)He is the Center and everything else is connected to him.

B)Here at Calvary Vista we are committed to seeing people who **don't know Jesus, become believers**

1)and to see **believers become disciples**

C)But Here is the question – what does it look like to be a Disciple of Jesus?

D)That is what the Lord put on my heart to share with you all today – first study together in 2022

1)What does it look like to be a disciple?

Now I have read a lot of books on Discipleship – listened to a lot of teachings on discipleship

A)and too be honest what many of them portray in the way of a Disciple is often **idealistic and very impractical – unattainable**

B)Even the original men that Jesus called his disciples didn't live up to some of those descriptions.

C)The original disciples of Jesus were ordinary guys like us, who made mistakes –

1) Who struggled with their flesh

2)Who Did stupid things at times – And yet Jesus called them his disciples

So over the past few months I have been praying and pondering – what does Discipleship look like for us at CV

A)For the mom with 3 little kids who is constantly looking for **moments to spend with Jesus**

B)To the guy working a 60-70 hour a week job –

1)who is trying to be a good dad, provider, and have Jesus as the center

C)But who struggles to find quality time in his week to be with Jesus

D)To the single parent who is juggling life and schedules and parenting all by themselves?

1)What does it look like to be a Disciple of Jesus

It starts with being fully committed to Jesus – He is the center of your life – that is the starting place.

A)But there are some traits that I think define the Disciples of Jesus – that can define our lives as well

B)Traits and practices that can be the grid through which we can measure –

1)Am I a Disciple or just a believer ?

C)This is what we are calling here at CV C4 Discipleship

D)Four traits and practices that will be a part of any person's life who is a Disciple of Jesus

E)These 4 traits are seen in the first disciples and in the early church –

1)that literally turned the world upside down for Jesus

Consider these 4 traits that marked the early Church

#1 Celebrate: They were worshippers

➤ Discipleship starts with giving Jesus glory for who he is and celebrating the life we have in him.

A)The men and women who followed Jesus, who were called his disciples,

B)were people who were GIVEN to #1 Celebrating Jesus and what he had done in their lives.

C)They were people who were given to the worship Jesus. It was said of the early church – **they met daily to praise God** Acts 2:47

D)The language and attitude of praise is really evident in the writings of the early apostles.

E)There is so much praise language in their writings because they their hearts were overflowing with gratitude for all that Jesus had done in saving them.

The Apostle John wrote

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

A)They were captivated by the glory of Jesus –the perfect blending of grace and truth

B)Peter had this to say about the church:

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

C)We exist Proclaim the praises of Jesus

D)The Apostle Paul

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16
ESV

Jesus taught his disciples to pray –

A)Our father (intimacy)... Hallowed be your name –

B)Hallowed = to be lifted up set apart – Holy (like no other name)

C) Let God's name **be treated differently** from all other names;

D) **Martin Luther** the great reformer was asked “How is [God’s name] hallowed amongst us?”
Answer “When our life and doctrine are truly Christian”

E)To put that another way: When our lives revolve around Jesus and our aim is to bring him glory

They were given to celebrating Jesus

A)They were a people whose lives are marked by an attitude of Gratitude –

B)That is what we want to be as well.

C)This is what this looks like here at CV

We give a great place to celebrating Jesus in all of our gatherings through worship.

A)But what we do here together as a church is really to be the overflow of what we are already doing individually in our daily lives.

B)We should wake up each day – thank the Lord for saving us! –

C)Remember when Jesus sent his disciples out to minister –

1)and they came back all excited about what God did.

D)It is exciting to be used of God – nothing wrong with being excited about that

But remember what he said to them- Don’t just rejoice that God worked through you –

A)rejoice that your names are written in heaven

B)Rejoice that you are saved – rejoice that you know God

1)Pinch ourselves – I can’t believe God loves me..... heaven

Praise and worship are not events, not a thing that we do – it is to be our lifestyle.

A)When we gather together it just flows out of us.

B)But we also worship and celebrate Jesus by giving priority to the study of his Word.

C)Psalm 138:2 We are told that God magnifies His word above His own name

D)This is a stunning and remarkable statement, showing the incredible regard God has for His own word.

1)He holds His **word** in greater esteem than His very character or name.

E)So we celebrate Jesus by giving worth to His word in our gatherings

1)and by giving time after the study of the word – to respond in worship

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

A)Every time we gather we want this to be a place where our heavenly father finds people ready to worship him in spirit and in truth.

B) So we want to be a church that is all about Celebrating Jesus –

1) who He is and what he is doing in our lives individually and as a church

C) First C – Celebrate – Disciples are given to celebrating Jesus

#2 Community

Discipleship consist of connecting with Jesus to grow in the grace of knowledge of who He is, and connecting with other followers of Jesus to stir each other to love and good works.

A) We are told in Mark's gospel that when Jesus called his disciples he called them to himself. – that is first.

B) Connected to Jesus – drawing near to Jesus – Promise **“Draw near to me and I will draw near to you.”**

C) He also declared he is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

1) He rewards us with more of himself

But we see this about the early church – They were men & women given to seeking Jesus individually

A) They were also men and women who were GIVEN #2 to Community –

B) They realized that no one is meant to be a lone ranger follower of Jesus.

C) We need each other & we are called to encourage and stir up one another in following the Lord. Hebrews 10:24,25 puts it this way: **“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

C) The early church disciples were so committed to community

1) that the Bible says they actually met together every single day

D) to study the scriptures and encourage one another in the Lord.

“42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.....46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42,46-47

Jesus demonstrated the importance of community

A) He was followed by a multitude – but he chose to hang out in smaller settings – 120 close flowers

B) He sent out the 70

C) He had 12 key guys that he did life with every day

D) Out of the 12 he had an inner circle of three – Peter James and John

1) Were they 3 above or the remedial group three guys that needed extra attention

E) Jesus sent his disciples out in groups of 2

All of this illustrating the importance of community

A) We are committed to creating an atmosphere for smaller gatherings

A) Settings where people can connect and build community with each other.

B) We learn in Rows but we connect in Circles

C) We place an importance on creating settings where community can happen

- ❖ The Courtyard
- ❖ Home groups
- ❖ Wednesday night Focus groups
- ❖ Men's and women's Bible studies
- ❖ Transformational classes
- ❖ One on one study groups
- ❖ Play groups
- ❖ Women's Beach days

D) C4 Discipleship – looks like – people who are celebrating Jesus –

E) Where people who are given to community

Another thing that stands out about the early disciples is they understood that they were redeemed by Jesus in order to

A)#3 make a Contribution in this world for the Kingdom of God.

B)They literally sacrificed their time, energy and resources to advance the kingdom of God and the gospel message in this world.

C)We are told in the book of Acts that these men and women took this calling so seriously that they literally turned the world upside down. Acts 17:6

D)Discipleship results in being active in the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the church and in the world.

We believe that every person in our church family has a unique role to play in the church and in the world.

A)Paul the apostle put it this way. Romans 12:4-8

⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being many*, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering*; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Discipleship involves making a contribution to the Kingdom

A)We want to help you discover your unique role in the church and in the world and provide opportunities for you to contribute

B)We provide opportunities for people to contribute various ways:

- ❖ By giving serving opportunities in various ministries within the church
- ❖ By serving in various ministry opportunities outside of the church
- ❖ By going on short term mission trips
- ❖ By giving financially to the work of the Lord through CV
- ❖ By praying for ministries and leaders within the church

C)So here is the grid so far – ask yourself – these type of questions –

#1 Is my life marked by the celebration of Jesus –

A)Who he is what he has done and is doing in my life – friends lives?

B)#2 Am I engaged in community with other believers? –

1)Are there people in my life who can speak into my life – who stir me up in the Lord

C)#3 Am I making a contribution to advancing the Kingdom of God in some way? –

D)Am I using my time, energy, resources, and talents to promote Jesus and his work in lives, the church and my community

E)But there is one more C that is vitally important – especially as it related to this making a contribution

#4 Compelled

A)See the first Disciples understood that the only way that they would be able to make that impact for the Kingdom of God in this world was

B)by being Compelled by the Love of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

C)Discipleship advances when we are being compelled by the love of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to impact our spheres of influence for Jesus.

The early Church realized that they were called to something that they were not able to do in their own strength.

A)So before they even began their ministry Jesus had them wait in Jerusalem to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

B)Jesus told them in Acts 1:8 ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

C)They would come to realize that they had to be completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit

1)in order to carry out the mission that Jesus had given to them.

We have to check ourselves constantly – are we trying to serve Jesus and walk with Jesus in our own strength

A)That is why here at CV we place an emphasis on reminding ourselves of the importance of walking in the Spirit

B)Being led by the Holy Spirit and understanding that they only way we can be who God has called us to be

1)And to do what God has called us to do is in and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

C)The Love of Jesus compelling us and the Holy Spirit empowering us is the Key to fulfilling our calling as followers of Jesus

So in 2022 as we seek to Go deeper and Wider in our following of Jesus and in our serving of Jesus –

A)this is the grid we can be measured by

B)Are we given to celebrating Jesus.....

C)Are we given to community – engaging with each other in the Lord

D)Are we given to looking for ways to make a contribution for the Kingdom

E)Are we given to daily being compelled by the Love of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit

1)to be and do what Jesus has called us to be and do?

If we can answer Yes to those things

A)I think it is safe to say – we are fulfilling our calling to be disciples and to make disciples

B)If we can't say yes to any of those four things, it gives us a barometer to see where we are lacking.

1)Something needs to change in me – my priorities

**As we close today I want you examine your life. -
PRAY**

A)First are you 100% committed to Jesus – does your life revolve around him – is he the center?

B)Or is Jesus just a part of your life- small big – depends on the week

C)Ask yourself – Are you given to celebrating Jesus – are you a worshipper ?

D)Are you a complainer – always focusing on what is not happening ?

1)Give that to Jesus – begin thanking him right now – Saved .. Heaven

Are you given to community?

A)Or are you a lone ranger – do it on your own – Make a commitment today

B)Join us on Wednesdays Winter focus – circle groups

Are you making a contribution? –

A)Are you using your time energy resources talents and gifts for the advancement ...Kingdom?

B)Answer is no – Ask the Lord to show you – where he wants you to serve

1)How he wants you to be involved – talk to someone in leadership –

C)I am a mom – my time is limited – exhausted – what can I do?

1)Maybe your only contribution is to be pouring into those kids

D)We would love to pray with you and talk with you and walk with you through that?

E)Lastly – If your answer to all of the above is Yes – Committed, celebrating, community contribution

Here is another Big question –

A)Are you following Jesus and seeking to Serve Jesus in your own strength or the power of the Holy Spirit

B)Worn out? Frustrated? Not making an impact? – Might be own strength

1)Feel like you are doing it all alone?

C)Confess that to Jesus today – ask him to empower you afresh with his Spirit