



ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

LIVE AN IMPACTFUL LIFE

Matthew 10:1-15

- *“Jesus called His twelve disciples together . . .”* (Matthew 10:1)
- A **“disciple”** is someone who is a student of someone else, who is committed to following their mentor’s teaching and living by his/her values.
- *“Jesus was aware that some of His disciples were complaining, so He said . . . ‘The very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe Me.’ . . . At this point many of His disciples turned away and deserted Him.”* (John 6:60-66)
- *“Only 6-10% of Americans are deeply committed Christians.”* (George Gallup)
- **Many people who claim to be followers of Jesus are really more like fans of Jesus - but they will never be real disciples of Jesus and difference-makers in the world.**
- ***What does it take to be a real disciple of Jesus and difference-maker in our world?***

Living An Impactful Life Involves:

BECOMING JESUS’ ALLY

- *“Jesus called His twelve disciples together . . .”* (Matthew 10:1)
- **Real followers of Jesus have entered into a relationship with Him - which occurs at salvation.**
- Paul - *“Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”* (Philippians 3:8)
- **Real followers of Jesus have embraced His values - which affects how they live and what they communicate to others around them.**
- Jesus - *“You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (John 8:31-32)
- **Real “followers of Jesus” are continually seeking to deepen their relationship with Him - through daily prayer and Bible reading, regular connections with other Christians, faithful church attendance, engagement in ministry to others, etc.**
- *“You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:18)

- *“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. . . . They worshiped together at the Temple . . . met in homes . . . and shared their meals . . . all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.”* (Acts 2:42-47)
- **What steps do I need to develop or deepen my relationship with Jesus?**

Living An Impactful Life Involves:

ACCESSING JESUS’ AUTHORITY

- *“Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.”* (Matthew 10:1)
- **“Authority” is power from a superior source - delegated power (Luke 10:19).**
- Jesus to His disciples - *“I have given you authority over all of the power of the enemy.”* (Luke 10:19)
- Jesus to His disciples - *“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations . . .”* (Matthew 28:19)
- **Jesus has delegated supernatural authority and power to His devoted allies.**
- **When we try to live for the Lord and do His work without His authority (power) we end up defeated and discouraged (Acts 19:13-16); but nothing or no one can suppress a Christian who has discovered the authority they have from the Lord.**
- **We access Jesus’ authority for our lives when we are filled with Holy Spirit power.**
- Jesus - *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”* (Acts 1:8)
- **When we are living with Jesus’ authority we will have: 1) Power for the battles of life (Ephesians 6:10-13), 2) Connection with God through prayer (1 John 5:14-15), 3) Fearlessness in proclaiming our faith (Acts 2:6-11), and 4) Strength for living (Philippians 4:13, 19).**
- **What steps do I need to take to access Jesus’ authority for my life?**

Living An Impactful Life Involves:

ENGAGING IN JESUS’ ACTIVITIES

- *“Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: ‘Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel - God’s lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!’”* (Matthew 10:5-8)
- **We live impactful lives when we do what Jesus did for people He encountered.**
- Jesus – *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”* (Luke 4:18 NKJV)
- **Jesus has called us to be involved in *proclaiming the Gospel* to “lost sheep.”**
 - Jesus - *“You will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere - in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)
 - **“I can proclaim the gospel by _____.”**
- **Jesus has called us to be involved in *healing people’s hearts*.**
 - **“I can bring healing and comfort to others by _____.”**

- Jesus has called us to be involved in *helping people get free* from their hurts, bad habits and hang-ups (addictions).
 - “I can help others get “free” by _____.”
- Jesus has called us to be involved *teaching people God’s truths*.
 - “I can help spiritually blind people see by _____.”
- Jesus has called us to be involved in *liberating people from struggles*.
 - “I can help people who are oppressed by _____.”
- **What steps do I need to take to start carrying out Jesus’ ministry to people?**

Living An Impactful Life Involves:

TRUSTING IN THE LORD’S ARRANGEMENTS

- Jesus - *“Don’t take any money in your money belts . . . Don’t carry a traveler’s bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed. Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home . . .”* (Matthew 10:9-11)
- **The Lord has promised that there will be provision for those who are obeying Him and following His plans and purposes for our lives.**
- Paul - *“This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19)
- **When we’re living as a real disciple of Jesus, operating in His authority and carrying out His ministry in the world, He will provide for our physical, emotional, financial, relational, spiritual and vocational needs.**
- “Only 6-10% of Americans are deeply committed Christians” (George Gallup).
- **Why aren’t most Christians real disciples of Jesus, living with His authority and power, and carrying out His ministry to others?**
- Jesus - *“When you enter the home, give it your blessing. If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.”* (Matthew 10:12-15)
- **Those who accept “watered down Christianity” become innoculated against real Christianity.**
- *“If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.”* (James 4:4)
- **The Lord is looking for devoted Spirit-filled disciples - allies who are growing in their relationship with Him, operating with His authority, and carrying out His assignments to bring help, hope and healing to our world.**
- **I’m going to accept Jesus’ challenge and _____**
_____.