

LBC: The Ordinary, Exceptional Disciple

Def. Discipleship: following Jesus Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

⁹ Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹² so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

What did Jesus actually command?

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The Gk. word "Go" is, "as you are going." We follow Jesus wherever He leads, doing all these things as we go.

Acts 1:8

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

These are the concentric circles in which we will be witnesses; none of them are more spiritual than any other!

We are to serve Jesus WHERE HE CALLS US, and to glorify Him by strengthening each other to serve Him there!

We do not need the grace of God to stand crises, human nature and pride are sufficient, we can face the strain magnificently; but it does require the supernatural grace of God to live twenty-four hours in every day as a saint, to go through drudgery as a disciple, to live an ordinary, unobserved, ignored existence as a disciple of Jesus. It is inbred in us that we have to do exceptional things for God; but we have not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, and this is not learned in five minutes.

-A devotional author who shall remain nameless

Example: Tabitha (Dorcas)- abounding in good works, serving her home town.

The gospel will absolutely challenge our relationship to wealth and possessions.

Mark 10:21-23

²¹ Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. ²³ And Jesus, looking around, *said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"

Jesus did not say that this man had too much; He told Him there was something that he lacked!

He lacked the liberty to use his wealth for eternal purposes, so his heart could never belong fully to Jesus.

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

We don't know the final outcome of the rich young man. He may have wrestled with God and given all in the end.

Serving as senders

Romans 10:15

¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent?

Luke 8:3

⁸ ³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

For some to be going, others have to be willing to partner as senders, and share their private means!

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed

Luke 16:9

⁹ And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.

Strategy for World Evangelism: Everyone surrender to Jesus, ask Him what He would have you do, and obey Him.

There is the same reward for those who go to the ends of the earth, and those who never leave Jerusalem!

1 Samuel 30:23-25

²³ Then David said, "You must not do so, my brothers, with what the Lord has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us. ²⁴ And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike." ²⁵ So it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

Matthew 25:34-40

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? ³⁸ And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹ When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

This is ordinary, exceptional discipleship. God will never miss even the slightest act of love performed in His name.