**LIBERTY CHURCH, YUKON**

 **Dr. Kevin Clarkson February 28, 2021**

**UPSIDE-DOWN DISCIPLES**

**MATTHEW 5:1-2**

3 dynamics interplay: JESUS + HIS DISCIPLES + THE MULTITUDES

Jesus, from the beginning, plans to reach the great masses through His own people...

so He calls them close to Himself and trains them how to live...

and these early followers will “turn the world upside down” (Acts 17:6) within a generation

**So How Have We Gotten It Upside Down Today?**

**1. We’ve Switched Marking DECISIONS for Making DISCIPLES (v.1)**

 \* NT speaks of Christians (3x), believers...those that believed, and disciples (200+x)

 \* disciple = one who follows a master-teacher, learns and lives out the teaching

 \* Discipline – control gained through obedience and order; prescribed pattern of behavior

 Greek mathates = a learner / follower of Christ who grasps His truths and the lifestyle they require

 “Math” – mental effort to think something through, apply knowledge to solve problems

 \* “decisions for Christ,” “praying a prayer,” “raising a hand in a dark room,” but Christ commands:

**Matthew 28:19-20** 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. NKJV

**2. We’ve Switched PASSION for ACTION (v.18)**

 \* passion and excitement are a good start, but they must lead to action

**Matthew 7:24-25** “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:  25and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. NKJV

**John 13:17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. NKJV

 \* Matthew 8:19-20 – follow the feeling...COUNT THE COST...PAY THE PRICE!

**Matthew 8:19-20** And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart

to the other side. 19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever

You go.” NKJV

 \* “5th” gospel is the book of ACTS. [Greek = praxis – practice, practical]

 **Acts 1:1** The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach. NKJV

**3. We’ve Switched LEARNING for LIVING (v.3ff)**

 \* God’s truth is not just to INFORM us...it is to TRANSFORM us!

 **Romans 12:2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your

 bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. NKJV

 **Deuteronomy 29:29** “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which

 are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this

 law. NKJV

 \* in both Hebrew and Greek, the words for “to obey” are the same as “to hear” –

 If you hear it, you are to do it!

 **James 1:22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. NKJV

 \* for many, Christian growth is about study, study, study...but Jesus said it’s about LOVING,

 SERVING, AND GIVING.

 **Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give

 His life a ransom for many.” NKJV

**4. We’ve Switched PERSONAL Involvement for CHURCH Investment**

 \* Jesus started a movement to CHANGE THE WORLD...turn it rightside-up and inside-out!

 **Matthew 5:13-14** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be

seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. NKJV

 \* it will take ALL OF US TOGETHER, we cannot be isolated and separate –

 **Matthew 16:18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My

 church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. NKJV

 \* It’s a cause SO MUCH BIGGER than any of our lives that we will need HIM and each other!

**5. We’ve Switched COMING to “Church” for GOING to the World**

 \* Jesus left the mountain and went into the public space, cities, homes, the lake –

 **Matthew 8:1-2** When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.

2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make

me clean.” NKJV

 \* He went where people are, where they live and work daily – it’s where He sends us, too –

 **Matthew 10:7** And as out go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ NKJV

 \* “NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD” – sign leaving the Go Ye Village, Tahlequah, OK