

Lesson 1: Process of Change

Isaiah 28

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;

To whom will God reveal Himself? Babes?

No. Precept upon precept, line upon line. Not information overload, but revelation! It is a process of learning about God.

Matthew 28

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to *observe* all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Observance, not just acknowledgement. Practice, not just a promise. Developing a knowledge of WHO Jesus is, not just WHAT He is. We are to be disciples, not just believers.

Disciple: One who hears every Word that is taught and immediately puts those teachings to practice. A disciple is actively and aggressively involved. Hearers of the word AND does. They apply it to themselves first.

True Discipleship comes for a purpose: **CHANGE!**

2 Corinthians 5

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things *are passed* away; behold, all things *are become* new.

Active words indicate a progressive process of discipleship. The process of discipleship comes for the purpose of bringing about change. The problem is, change does not come without **CONFRONTATION**.

A person does not lose weight if they do not confront their bad habits. Whether due to internal or external factors, the issue must be confronted before change can occur.

If the PURPOSE of discipleship is to change, then the PROCESS of discipleship is to confront.

Romans 8

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 3

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Confrontation is by necessity uncomfortable. If you attend a “friendly” church that makes no demands on you, speaks only soothing words and makes unconditional promises you will be very comfortable but you will never change your life. True discipleship requires confrontation by the Word of God.

CHANGE requires DISPLACEMENT.

In order for me to change, something that IS in me must be displaced to make room for what is NOT in me to move in. Warm air must displace cool air in order for the weather to change.

James 3

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.
11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

The ungodly must be moved:

- Out of their place of priority
- Out of their position
- Out of our lives completely

Comfort is the curse of a compromised gospel, because true change only comes through confrontation.

The purpose of discipleship is not to make people feel good about their situation, but to confront them about things in their life (that are contrary to God’s Word) that may have caused the problem in the first place. Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; so that through the course of time what is wrong in a person’s life can be displaced by what is right. There will be times when this is uncomfortable.

Watered-down ministry that tells people only how blessed they are or how good they are does not convey the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must allow God’s Word to expose our wickedness as David cried: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”(Psalm 139:23-24)

Charles Finney: “If you aren’t going through seasons of brokenness and repentance every six weeks, then you are probably backsliding.”

Proverbs 16

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

God’s Word must penetrate and expose us to be more like Him! The Word judges us, disciples seek that confrontation.