



Life on the Rock – Part One

Message by Pastor Andrew Kulasingham 9th February 2020

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-25

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go 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, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Sandwiched between the **power of God** and the **presence of God**, is the practice of **discipleship**.

All authority given to Me – **make disciples** – I will be with you always.

We are not called to win converts. We are commissioned to make disciples.

The Making of a disciple

1. “baptizing them...”

Discipleship involves an immersion into a relationship with the Triune God

Are we dipped or pickled?

The word **baptised** comes from the Greek word “*baptizo*”.

- “*bapto*” (to dip) – temporary

- “*baptizo*” (to be immersed) – permanent change

James Montgomery Boice, Presbyterian minister and Theologian explained:

The clearest example that shows the meaning of *baptizo* is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. (*bapto* and *baptizo*).

Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (*bapto*) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (*baptizo*) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

Baptizo therefore requires a union, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!

Many Christians are dipping into the life of Christ. That's not discipleship. Discipleship requires one to be pickled, immersed, soaked in God life – transformed.

Discipleship is total immersion into a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are transformed into His likeness.

2. Making of a disciple - “teaching them to observe”

Discipleship involves learning and applying through practice

Matthew 7:24-27 – the wise man and the foolish man

“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: and 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.

“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

The similarities in the two men:

Both were building a house

Both experienced rain, floods, and winds beating against their house.

The difference between the two men:

One heard the sayings of Jesus and did them; the other heard but did not do.

A Christian hears and does; a Christian is signed up for a lifelong discipleship programme.

“whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them”

- Hearing requires giving attention to what is said.
You cannot hear if you are not listening.
- Doing requires coming to agreement, aligning to what is said and acting according to what has been heard.

You will not **do** if you do not change your mind in order to agree.

Following Christ requires discipline.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NKJV)

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

The New Testament is full of words exhorting the believer into action

I run, I fight, I discipline... I bring it to subjection

“let us lay aside every weight” (Hebrews 4:11)

“let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

“Let us draw near to God” (James 4:7)

Discipleship is partnering with God to access the life on the rock.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV) ... **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure**

“**work out your own salvation**” – I have a responsibility to work out.

“**God who works in you**” – But the transformation comes about because God is working in you.

The Power and the Presence of Christ is available – but only for disciples.

- Sandwiched between the power of God and the presence of God, is the practice of discipleship.
- Discipleship is total immersion into a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Discipleship is partnering with God to access the life on the rock.