

# Every Member a Disciple Maker - 5

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 - MATT BRYANT



## Summary - “Every Member a Disciple Maker”

Over the last few weeks we have been talking about the urgency of discipleship and the importance and call for every member in the church to be a disciple and a disciple maker. We have discussed the importance of relationships and our primary relationship being with the person and the work of Jesus Christ. We have discussed the importance of our mind being transformed through the power of God’s Word and our need to fully surrender to the call of Jesus Christ on our lives. We have also looked at the need to understand who Jesus is, believe why He came, and know what He requires of us all as followers. We have looked at what we need to do to be disciples and to make disciples, yet, many of us are not living with a fire or a drive within us to do either. We may sit and hear a great message on Sunday, but we aren’t fired up to take it outside the church walls during the week. There is often a numbness, or lack of passion, to take the life giving message of Jesus Christ and His Gospel to those in desperate need. We may know what to do, but we aren’t doing it. We are content just being where we are. This week, we will look at the story of Moses in Exodus chapter 3 and see that Moses, at one point in his story, was not living life with a fire in his heart either. We often think of Moses as the great leader of the Jewish people, the one who God used in mighty ways to free His people, and the one who led the people through the wilderness, to the promised land. However, before all of this, there was a very broken man who was on the run, hiding in the middle of nowhere, and tending to his father in law’s sheep due to his own sinful past. He had lived for 40 years in a state of hiding, yet during this time, God was preparing him to eventually lead many. We will see this week that there was a moment where Moses “turned aside” from his regular, normal, everyday routine life, to focus on the greater something that God was doing, and to say to the Creator of Life, “here I am.” He went from a mundane and passionless life, to someone who was regularly experiencing the presence of God and being used by God in incredible ways.

## Scripture - Exodus 3:1-6 (read Exodus 1-6 for greater context)

*Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6 And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

## Key Terms - “Turn Aside” in Exodus 3:3

Turn Aside: sôr (soor) - to turn aside, depart, avoid, to be removed, to come to an end - meaning that Moses will depart from or be removed from what He is doing in order to focus on something else.

## Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

## Further Scripture Study

**Exodus 3:1-6 (read Exodus 1-6 for context); Deuteronomy 5:32-33; Matthew 4:18-22 & 28:18-20; Acts 7-9 (Paul turned aside as well to follow God)**

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

### Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

### Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

# Key Thoughts

A disciple is a student of Jesus, who takes what they have learned, applies it to their own life, and teaches others to do the same (disciples who make disciples).

In Exodus 3, we find Moses, living life as a shepherd, not what someone raised as an Egyptian would ever want to be. He is here because of his past and seems to have settled into the mundane, everyday routine of shepherding his father in law's sheep.

In 3:2-3 Moses recognizes that something great is happening on the Mountain of God and "turns aside" from his everyday focus (tending sheep) and leaves the sheep to see what is happening on the mountain.

In 3:4 God sees that Moses "turns aside" from what his focus had been (shepherding sheep) and calls out to him in a personal way saying "Moses, Moses!". Moses replies, "Here I am." God is about to call him into something much greater. God called Moses and Moses has responded to the call.

in 3:5-6 God makes it very clear who He is, saying, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this point Moses then hides his face as he is afraid to look at God.

This moment is a major shift in the life of Moses from a broken man who is running from his past, and God, to that of a humble servant of God that will be used to help lead hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, out of slavery in Egypt. From a guy with no drive and no fire to go out and rescue, to a guy who God uses as His mouthpiece in one of the greatest movements of God in His people's history.

What changed Moses from someone who is sitting there, who doesn't really care, who doesn't really have that evangelistic drive, that drive to save people? What changed? God moved! Moses turned aside to pursue what God was doing, and in doing so, began to regularly experience the presence of God in his life. This moment in Exodus 3 is the catalyst for who Moses will become.

Plain and simply, many of us are not living on fire to make disciples and tell others about God because we do not turn aside, disrupt our lives, to pursue after what God is doing and therefore are not regularly experiencing the presence of God. Once we do turn aside and experience God, then telling people about Him is not an option, it is just what we will do.

If we are not regularly spending time with God, in His word, and having conversations with other believers about what He is doing in our lives, then there is no way we are going to walk out of here on a Sunday morning and go have these conversations with non-believers during the week.

When we naturally gather with other believers, study God's Word, and talk about our faith, then we will naturally share with non-believers when the opportunity arises. We will be disciples who make disciples.

## Reflect & Respond (read Exodus 1-6 with a focus on 3:1-6)

Read and compare the stories of Moses (Exodus 1-6) and Paul (Acts 7-9). What similarities do you find between these two men and how God called them? What strikes you as “catalyst” moments for each of them? What has been your “catalyst” moment(s) regarding your walk with the Lord?

What specifically ignites a passion in you for God? Is it His Word, prayer, time with other believers? What ignites that fire in you to go and make disciples? Do you regularly share what God has done in your life with others (believers and non-believers)? Remember, if we aren’t sharing with believers, how are we going to be ready to share with non-believers?

Why do we often sit, week after week, in a service, hearing about the importance of disciple making and telling other people about God, yet don’t really “feel it”, or do anything about it, during the week? What prevents us from passionately taking the Gospel message and the person and work of Jesus Christ to others who are in need? What is preventing us from living on fire for the Lord outside of the walls of the church, perhaps even inside the walls? What specifically is preventing you from passionately living for the Lord?

What are you making a priority in your life? Is it the world, the routines of life, or is it the Lord? Are you currently on fire for the Lord and discipleship or not? Are you simply showing up at church on Sundays, just routinely “checking the box”, OR, are you “turning aside”, pursuing hard after the things of God, and regularly experiencing His presence through time in the word, prayer, worship, and life with other believers through regular worship gatherings, groups, and classes?

Where do you see God at work, doing something amazing? Are you “turning aside” to pursue it, to go see what it is, or are you missing it because you are so committed to your routine life? What might you need to “turn aside” from in order to pursue what God is doing? Where might you be missing the “catalyst” moment because you are not “turning aside” to see what God is up to?

Who do you need to have a conversation with this week about what God is doing in your life? Who do you need to call, talk to, grab lunch with, etc?

## Additional Thoughts