

Ron Armstrong • March 16 & 17, 2019

### The Great Investment: Making Disciples

**Matthew 28:19** “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you ...

**Mark 4:1** Again Jesus began to teach ... **3** “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.” **10** When he was alone, the Twelve ... asked him about the parables. **13** Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? **14** The farmer sows the word. **15** Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. **16** Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. **17** But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **18** Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; **19** but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. **20** Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

#### A. From believer to DISCIPLE.

1. Jesus’ instructions to the disciples and Jesus’ parable both point to the same things:
  - a. Hearing about Jesus, believing, and inviting him to lead our life is the BEGINNING of our journey.
  - b. Becoming a fruitful disciple is the goal. Let’s look at the parable closely.
  - c. Disciples will bear fruit according to their GIFTS/ABILITIES.
2. “Fruit” means living in alignment with God’s purposes for us and helping OTHERS live in alignment with God’s purposes for them.

American purposes:  
Acquire stuff  
Attain status  
Be successful  
Be happy

Biblical purposes:  
Relationship with God  
Relationship with others

3. A helpful pathway: come, group, serve, give, and go share.
  - a. It is not really a pathway. People are unique and so is their JOURNEY.
  - b. But these things are INGREDIENTS that help make fruitful disciples.

#### B. “Come” means more than showing up here.

1. It means be with the family FAITHFULLY.
2. It means to begin a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus.
3. It means to be BAPTIZED.
4. It means to be part of the family.