

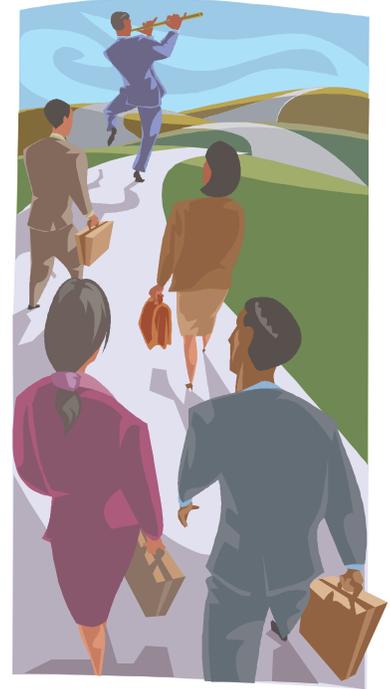
Go and Make Followers

A lot has been written about “leadership” but not so much about followership. My opinion is the best way to be a leader is to make sure you are following the right person or following the right principles. How can we be a follower of Jesus when it seems easier to follow what is popular or what everyone else is doing? We do not do this on our own power, but we are able to be a disciple of Jesus through God's might. **Sometimes God uses life lessons so we would give up on our might and lean on God's strength.**

Jesus told his followers to meet him. When they met him some doubted. He then said to them,

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

As we begin the New Year you might be questioning the future - *“What does God have in store for me in 2012? In other words, what does he want me to do? Does he want me to do something different than last year? Will I be able to do it? What new adventures await me? What disappointments will come my way? What have I been doing well that I should keep doing?”*



AS YOU ARE GOING..

I remember first hearing this bible passage and I thought God was talking about being a missionary in far away foreign places. These words are about being on a mission, or a life of purpose, no matter where you live. What Jesus is saying is “as you are going” through each day look for opportunities to meet with Jesus. Then look for followers of Jesus. How can we make someone a follower? Sometimes it takes a whole lifetime to accomplish this. Just blessing someone with a “Hi” or “Hello” or a smile can open the door.

MAKE DISCIPLES THROUGH BAPTIZING IN GOD'S NAME AND BY TEACHING

God always uses “a way” or means to do his work. The way we are made his followers is through the power of baptism. Through God's word water is applied and we are washed clean of all our sin. God also calls us to follow him in his word, which is the way we are instructed. We make disciples by living out our calling as a follower of Jesus. *Our life may be the only book others read.* (anonymous)

What is most important to God is “how” you live not “where” you live.

Do not worry if you are leading well. Ask yourself, “Who am I following”? Who you follow and how you live will determine how well you lead. God will guide you.

Follow Him,

Pastor John Raddatz