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SERMON

BY

Will Harris

Text, Chapter 10 Matthew

Subject, Discipleship

Matthew 10.

Discipleship - its meaning.
We have, in the 10th chapter
of Matthew, a portrayal of
Christian discipleship.
Christ calls men, charges
them and sends them
forth. The disciple was
called to a person, Christ.
It is even so today. We
are not called to a church,
however worthy that
church may be. Our
years of service directed
toward the attainment
of a worthy end will stand
firmly or become di-
verted just in propor-
tion to our early real-

ization of this fact -
that we are working
primarily not for a
church, nor for a mission
board or any other insti-
tution and much less
for our own selves, but
for a person, our Lord
Jesus. The disciple who
keeps close to his teacher
will be helped to overcome
all difficulties. We
find disciples of Christ
abandoning their work
and shifting to something
else - leaving their work
half finished. What ~~tremendous~~
tremendous accomplish-
ments would stand out

if all the good work begun were carried out? It was not finished either because it was not undertaken for Christ or else the worker forgot Christ in his work and came gradually to see not Christ but only the work. One of the easiest things to do in a factory is to be caught in the bands or wheels of the machinery and to be destroyed by that which we built up. The world is not Christian

today because Christians, in their zeal to push their work, have forgotten their teacher, the Christ.

Jesus called the 12 to Him. The disciples, like the great majority of Christians today, accepted Christing expecting to find an easy life. They talked about preeminence. They argued about who would have the highest position in the new kingdom which Jesus, their King, was about to set up. They placed their usefulness and happiness upon their position in the new kingdom.

Are we very much (3)
better than the first dis-
ciples? Don't we place
our happiness on
things. People are not
usually happy unless
they have the best for
themselves.

Do not understand me
to say that you should
strive for anything but
the best. No man should
aspire to anything but
the best. And yet - no
one should stake his
happiness on things.
Is life to you a place
of external things or
of eternal realities?

Is home, a home to you
because of the nice furni-
ture and beautiful house?

Or is it a home to you
first and foremost because
of the touch of personality
found there, the throbbing
of a loving heart that
beats there? Is life
pleasant to you because
the breezes are cool, the
scenery charming
and your ^{material} needs are
supplied? Or is it
pleasant to you because
of the conscious presence
of your teacher, Jesus, as
He walks along the way
with you? Are you

happy because of ⁴
circumstances or in
spite of circumstances?

Are you ~~happy~~ sad
because you are away
from home and loved
ones, or are you glad
in the fact that you
have a home and loved
ones even though you
are not with them?

There are two ways of looking
at everything. One way
is on the gloomy, dark
side, the other the bright
and cheerful side. This
you, as disciples have to
learn by practice.

The disciples had

to learn it by experience,
they could not conceive of
a King without a great
palace, a gorgeous
throne and surrounded
by wealthy friends. They
understood not when
Jesus tried to teach
them of the splendor
of His Kingdom in their
hearts. The dewdrop
on a tiny blade of grass
is a thousand times more
beautiful when it receives
into its bosom and
reflects the myriad
rays of the sun. The
life of the disciple is
made wonderfully beautiful

When it receives and reflects the unobstructed rays of the Sun of Righteousness.

A butterfly is beautiful. When it comes between the dew glistening dew drop and the sun, its shadow leaves the dew drop a mere drop of water on the blade of grass. Anything, however beautiful it may be, that comes between the Master and the disciple, leaves the disciple

a mere man with
the glory of Heaven all
gone. ^{Christian} Discipleship means
the acceptance of the
character of Christ into
our life and reflected
out to the world
in good works

1 Discipleship also
means fellowship.
Fellowship with your
friend means a par-
ticipation in his
sorrows and joys, in
the defeats and victories
of your friend. There
can be no true fellowship
that has not been welded
together by adversity.
You should remember

That the Christian life is to be deepened, developed and strengthened by trials, hardships and sufferings. Yet suffering is only incidental to the life with Christ. Suffering for the sake of suffering drags us down. Suffering for the sake of Christ ennobles and lifts us up.

Christ was very careful to tell his disciples what to do and to expect. They were to go, heal the

sick, cleanse the lepers,
raise the dead, cast out
devils, freely ye received
freely give.

And in their giving
they were to remember that
they are simple and
easily led astray - they
are sheep; that along
the way wolves wait
for them; that their safety
is to keep near their
shepherd. During the
immediate future the
wolves are going to hunt
for you. They will crouch
in joyful anticipation
if they find you alone.
I have had praise wolves

to follow me, playing around me, barking at me. When I had my gun with me I never saw ^{many wolves} ~~a wolf~~ that would tarry long enough for me to shoot at them. Wolves are cowards. They come near, even attack you when you have no gun. But they will run at the sight of a gun. They are quick to distinguish between a gun and a stick that you may be carrying. So

the wolves, the temptations that are going to overtake you during the coming days will easily detect your real strength. The devil knows when a man is a xtu at heart and when he is only a Christian in name.

The devil will run from you if you have Jesus as your guide, your teacher. Jesus said: I send you forth in the midst of wolves, be ye as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.

You recall that in the beginning it was said

that the serpent was more subtle than all the beasts of the field. The serpent is quick to discern danger. They are also quick in fleeing from danger. They move rapidly in making their escape from danger. They do not hesitate nor play with danger. They hide in the thicket. Be like the serpent in time of peril. Make straight way to your safety by the side of your master.

The dangers, the perils
awaiting you will be as
many as ^{your} opportunities
and ^{your} desires. Carelessness
neglectful ^{ness} of danger, ^{in acceptance of} responsibility or duty will beset you.
You are in danger of becoming
indifferent to the common
interest of the needy, insen-
sible to heartaches of others,
and unconcerned about
the consequences and
dire results of your actions
neglecting to seize every
opportunity for betterment.
Procrastination - putting
off till tomorrow that
which should be done
today - is the thief of time.

The failure to realize
the possibility of failure
is one of ^{your} ~~the~~ greatest perils.
There is in every one, so
the doctors say, a germ
of every kind of a disease.
It is certainly true that
a germ of failure lies
for every one when the
gates of ^{any} opportunity open
to him. It is only by
clear thinking, quick
action and constant
endeavor that failures
are turned into victories.
The first disciples saw no
personal dangers in

following Jesus. They boasted that they would die with Him. There was no peril present then. When the danger broke up their midnight slumbers, they all forsook Him and fled - leaving Jesus alone with his enemies.

Discipleship has great compensations. In these we are always deeply interested. It makes a clear man, a strong man, a clear thinking brain, It makes a hero out of a weak man. It brings us into fellowship with the best people on earth

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and ^{with} God in heaven.

But I wish to remind you that discipleship is also exacting on your strength, your money and your time. It calls for the best in you and that best can only be set forth for the comfort of your fellow disciples when you pass triumphantly through hardships.

History bears me out in that statement. Peter

was, for loyalty to Jesus, crucified at Rome.

Andrew, Peter's brother

was crucified in Achaia,
James was beheaded by
Agrippa I. John the
beloved, for his loyalty
and love to Jesus, was
banished to Patmos,
Philip was hanged in
Hierapolis, Matthew
martyred in India, and
Thomas was flayed alive.
From the day of the first
disciples to this the history
has been the same.

Boniface, the first-missionary
to Germany, was hacked
to pieces by ^{many} ^{motives} ⁱⁿ ^{his} ^{ancestors} the natives
of Germany. John Chry-
sostom, head of the Church
at Constantinople was

twice driven out of
the city and then
in the country they
chased him over the
desert till he fell
exhausted and died.
Henry Martyn died
exhausted by over
work for India & Persia.
Judson & in Burmah
spent years in prison
for Christ; John Williams
while trying to teach the
people of Arramango, was
killed and eaten by them.
Not long ago I sat
at a table with a

young man in a Y.M.C.A
café in New York. He began
telling me about how ^{in Armenia} his
mother and father were
killed and his beautiful
sister carried away by
the Turks, why because
they were Christians.

Obedience to God will
make heroes of other-
wise ordinary men
and women. We need
more young people today
of the hero nerve, who
will refuse to do wrong
and who will dare to
do what is right.
Who flee from danger but
not from duty. There

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There is no honorable way to avoid doing your duty.

We are to be wise like serpents but not serpents. We are to be sheeplike but not sheepish. Harmless as doves, that is, sincere, genuine, free from selfishness.

Christ is sending you out not to be defeated but to win victories.

You should not question the victory that is sure to come to you, if you go out to do what God

asks you to do. Christ is more eager to see you overcome and win the fight for the right than you are.

We have this last week out of our last temporary building moved into our last new kitchen and dining room.

Some day these hills will be covered with many more fine buildings. A college is not made by its fine buildings and beautiful bridges as this college will soon leave.

The most important part of this our work is the shaping of lives of our students into xtu

characters. As your college days have come to a close I trust you can look back over a four years of mental strengthening, of physical development and of spiritual enrichment with a broad and deep conception of life — ~~and~~ its meaning, its opportunities and its responsibilities.

You have been, for 4 years, students. The time has come for you to go out as teachers. You have been instrumental in raising the standards

of student life here. We who stay look to you for help in making this college better. You can send us the best young people of your acquaintance. You can suggest ways of improvement. You can pray and give.

This is your last week here as a class. You are leaving your teachers ^{behind} - all but one. Remember always that One of your teachers - the principal ^{Jesus Christ,} _{one} is always with you in your trials, disappointments, successes, joys and hopes; with you to help you if you seek to do His will.