

THE  
“WHY SHOULD I”  
SERIES

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-487    MAY 4, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?”**

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

DISCIPLESHIP, GROWTH, MATURITY, OPPORTUNITY

**INTRODUCTION to the text :**

**Acts 2:41-47**

*Acts 2:41-47*

*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common. 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Why You Should Take a Reasonable Look at Your Church

PRACTICAL LESSONS ABOUT THE LIFE, THE MINISTRY, AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

**WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?**

**1.) Because I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ**

WHEN JESUS CALLED HIS MEN...

***But What Does a Disciple Look Like?***

We think that a disciple must be someone who wears a robe? Or maybe he is someone who's got a pair of really cool sandals and long hair.

Maybe a disciple is someone who sells flowers at the airport or magazines from door to door?

**To Be A Disciple is to be an Adherent To a doctrine of teaching.**

**“WHO YOU FOLLOW DEFINES WHAT YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU ARE DEFINES HOW YOU LIVE. WE BECOME LIKE OUR TEACHERS! SO BE CAREFUL WHO YOUR TEACHERS ARE.”**

# WHY? – TEACHERS DEPOSIT DOCTRINE!

Because I am a **Disciple** of Jesus Christ

1a.) **I Watch** to see what Jesus will do

**Matthew 5:2**

*Then Jesus opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

**Disciple** grk 3101 *mathetes* (math-ay-tes’);

one who is a learner or pupil of another. To be an Adherent of a doctrine of teaching that is proactive. A disciple learns and then does. To willfully obey!

**Titus 1:1**

*Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle*

**Bondservant** grk 1401 *doulos* (doo’-los); a willful slave, a slave who has chosen his servitude

## WHAT DID PEOPLE SEE JESUS DO?

- They saw him loving people
- They saw him caring for people
- They saw him serving people

**Luke 2:48**

*So when they saw Jesus, they were amazed;*

Because I am a **Disciple** of Jesus Christ

1b.) **I Listen** to hear what Jesus will say

## WHAT DID PEOPLE HEAR JESUS SAY?

They heard him talk about hope  
They heard him talk about forgiveness  
They heard him talk about hell and sin  
They heard him talk about the cross and his resurrection

THEY HEARD: “THE FULL COUNSEL OF GOD”

As a Disciple of Jesus Christ;

---

I have learned what to say is what Jesus has already said.

**Isaiah 55:11**

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

**Luke 2:47-48**

*And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.  
48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed;*

# THIS IS TRUE EVEN TO THIS HOUR

WHEN YOU **SEE** JESUS IN THE WORLD – HE’S IN THE ISSUES OF LIFE  
WHEN YOU **HEAR** JESUS IN THE WORD – HE’S IN THE EVENTS OF THE BIBLE

Church; “When We Have **Watched** Jesus in the Bible And When We Have **Listened** to What He Has Said - We Can Never be the Same.

**Because I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ**

1c.) **I Understand** how to be His Disciple

Living with Jesus – it quickly goes “Hands-On”

Mark 7:14

When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand (listen and learn)

A Disciple’s Boldness

Acts 2:14

But **Peter**, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known (understand) to you, and take heed (listen and learn) my words.

A Disciple’s Boldness

Acts 15:13

And after they had become silent, **James** spoke, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: (listen and learn)

Together, the Disciples Had Boldness

Acts 4:13

Now when people saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they concluded that they had been with Jesus.

**But Watching and Listening and Understanding will Not Necessarily make me a Disciple...**

James 1:23-25

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

## WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

2.) **Because exposure produces Growth**

2a.) **Growth by Doing**

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

**The Christian is a Hearer  
The Christian is a Doer  
In Totality - The Christian is a Worshipper**

**WHEN WE WORSHIP, THE WORLD IS CHANGED AROUND US**

Each and Every Christian has Been Given At least One Spiritual Gift.  
One of the Hallmarks of the Holy Spirit Living Inside a Believer, is a Spiritual Gift at work in the Church through that Believer.

**Ephesians 4:12-13**

*(Gifts) - for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

**John 13:15-17**

*"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

**Many of You – not a few**

CARNALLY RESIST WHEN AN INVITATION IS GIVEN TO GET INVOLVED.

**"I Don't Feel Led"**

Yet there is a great need in the church.

"How many of you mow your own yards or take out your trash?"

**Why Do You Do That?**

That's Not What Your Degree is In. You Don't Own a Trash Truck.

But You Still Take Out the Trash – Why?

To Keep Your House Usable and Livable.

**Mark 6:34-42**

*And Jesus, when He saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. 35 When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. 36 "Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." 37 But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?" 38 But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish." 39 Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. 41 And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. 42 So they all ate and were filled.*

# WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

**Because exposure produces Growth**

## 2b.) Growth by **Saying**

**WHEN WE HEAR AND UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE  
GOD DESIRES AT LEAST TWO THINGS TO HAPPEN FIRST:**

1. That we would **hear the word of God**
2. That we would **pass the word of God on**

## A Verbal Void Today

One of the Sad Reasons Why Many Christians are Retarded in Their Spiritual Growth is Because They are Timid. Timidity is a sin. It is Doubt and Unbelief

## Like the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea in Israel, It Takes in and Takes in but it Never Gives Out.  
And so it kills itself by holding back the very thing that can give life.

The More We Take In – The More It Must Come Out

**Say the things that Jesus Said, Read the Bible, and Copy what the Apostles Said And say them!**

**Hebrews 5:14**

**But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

*(Christianity's Greatest Defense is for it to be lived out before the world)*

Growth Will Follow

**Because exposure produces Growth**

## 2c.) Growth by **Learning**

### **Paul – The Disciple Maker**

**Philippians 4:9**

**The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.**

## **THE HANDS ON MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**EVERYTHING THAT JESUS TAUGHT, HE LATER DID**

**Matthew 5:1-2**

**And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:**

## There is Great Danger

In learning about spiritual things.

## Judas is an Example of This.

*Jesus Said;*

*For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him more will be asked.*

Don't Become a Theologian rather become a doer of the word.

## WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

### 3.) *Because I desire to **Mature** in my walk*

DISCIPLESHIP LEADS TO GROWTH, AND WITH GROWTH WE BECOME MATURE

#### 3a.) *We Mature when we **Gather Together***

When we gather Together for Worship / Study / Offering

*Malachi 3:16*

*Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name.*

*Hebrews 10:25*

*Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*

*Acts 2:42,44,46*

*And they continued steadfastly... 44 Now all who believed were together... 46 So continuing daily*

#### 3b.) *We Mature when we **Work Together***

Being Together in Ministry Develops Us

*Nehemiah 4:6*

*...for the people had a mind to work.*

**We are little people, being used by an Awesome God to do a Great Work.**

We know that crisis pulls people together.

We know that hardships pull people together.

We know that challenges pull people together.

**There is a great bonding that happens when we are united together in a work.**

Personally

---

I Worked Alongside The First Generation of This Church in the Beginning...  
Now I Work Alongside the New Generation of this Church Taking it Forward...

*Matthew 5:16*

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

*James 2:14*

*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?*

*James 2:17-18*

*Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

*James 2:21-22*

*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?*

### 3c.) We Mature when we **Rejoice Together**

- It's what heaven will be filled with.
- It's what we are commanded to do.
- It's what we're to be doing now.

*1 Chronicles 16:29*

*Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!*

*Psalms 95:6*

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

## WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

### 4.) Because **Opportunities** are open doors

Those Open Door Opportunities  
*Are engineered by God daily for each of us.*

God is Real and God is Alive - He is At Work in the Earth

Every Day There is Opportunity To see Him work.

He Creates Open Doors for Us In Ministry

### 4a.) Opportunity to see the **Bible in Action**

*Matthew 10:7-8*

*"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

*Luke 10:20-21*

*"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (YOU CAN ALMOST SEE JESUS' SMILE FROM HERE) 21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.*



# I BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE

Because it is a Book of Accounts, Actual and Factual

## 4b.) Opportunity to *be used by the Holy Spirit*

There are Three Realms Where the Holy Spirit is at Work

- 1- He is Alongside Every Human "Convicting Sin"
- 2 - He is Dwelling inside Every Christian
- 3 - And He Comes upon Some Christians for Ministry

The Conviction – we all know of  
The Indwelling – most of us know of The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

**The Filling of the Disciple Is For:  
Effective service / Effective love / Effective influence**

**Micah 3:8**  
*But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD...*

**Acts 1:8**  
*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**Acts 13:2**  
*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

## WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

### 4c.) Opportunity to *be like Jesus*

**I John 4:17**  
*Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

**Acts 4:13**  
*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

**John 13:15-16**  
*15"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16"Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent*

## QUESTIONS FOR A DISCIPLE

- Is Your Church Dependent Upon You for Help?
- If You Didn't Show Up, would you be missed?
- Are You a Debt to the Church or are you an Asset?



Do you see anything that needs to get done around your church?

---

Is there an area of ministry that is lacking?  
Is the vision of the church being fulfilled?

**Matthew 16:24-27**

***Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.***

\*\*\*\*\*

*End of Message*