

THE MIND OF A DISCIPLE

Growing Strong and Helping Others Grow Strong



Our speaker: Chuck Madden

Chuck has been involved in disciple making ministries for 50+ years. Plus he has had a wealth of real world experience, from leading a platoon of recon marines behind enemy lines in Vietnam, to leading disciple making ministries on college campuses, to running his own large construction company.

Currently Chuck is involved with Watermark's church's discipleship training program where 500 people a semester are trained and he is also helping to start similar discipling ministries at two other mega churches in Dallas.

Schedule

- 8:15 Session #1 - Our Calling to make Disciple-Makers
- 9:35 Break with refreshments
- 9:55 Session #2 - What Do I Do With God?
- 10:50 Break with refreshments
- 11:10 Session #3 - What Do I Do With People?
- 12:05 Lunch (provided)
- 12:50 Session #4 - What Do I Do With Me?
- 1:45 End

Our Calling to Make Disciple-Makers

Session 1

Put your notes here :)

What Do I Do With God?

Session 2

I. What do I do with God?

A. The first part of Session #2 is to get a clear understanding of God's involvement in who I am. This is foundational and critical to making wise decisions with your life.

B. So, where did you come from? The fact is you had no choice in the decisions that determined who you are.

Mom, dad, your 23 pair of chromosomes per cell, brothers, sisters, relatives, height, color hair, dad's and/or mom's occupation, social level, values of your family, way you were raised, city, state, country, ethnicity, your own personality, temperament, strengths, weaknesses.

You did not make any of these decisions so determinative as to your future.

C. So Who Did? God did! (Psalm 139:13-16)

1. *For you formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.-verse 13*

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.- verse 14

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. - verse 15

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.-verse 16

2. The Scriptures reveal that God put you together cell by cell, bone by bone, and He did so with a purpose in mind. He knew every day of your life before He ever started forming you in the womb.

a. *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.-Jeremiah 1:5*

b. *For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it; and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral tradition. But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...-Galatians 1:13-16b*

c. *Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He Who has made us and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.-Psalm 100:3*

d. *If I have despised the claim of my male or female slaves when they filed a complaint against me, what then could I do when God arises, and when He calls me to account, what will I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make him, and the same one fashion us in the womb?-Job 31:13-15*

e. And the Lord said to him, *"Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"*-Exodus 4:11

f. *And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? Jesus answered, It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents, but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him."*-John 9:1-3

3. It would appear clear that God put you together and had a definite purpose in doing so.

4. That is why the two most important days of your life are:

a. The day you were born

b. The day you realize why

II. The Bible describes life as a race

1. *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win* - I Corinthians 9:24

2. *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.* - Hebrews 12:1,2

A. You have three major life altering decisions to make because successfully running the race is your responsibility.

1. Lay aside every weight

- Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

- II Timothy 2:3, 4

2. The sin that so easily sidetracks you

a. *Strip off your old self, which follows your former ways of living and ruins you as it follows the desires that deceive you.* Ephesians 4:22 (Beck)-

b. Ian Thomas story

3. Run the race pre-chosen for you.

The problem for us is we don't have a clear idea of what our race looks like. We understand a small amount of who we are and what we like to do and our strengths and weaknesses, abilities, etc. but what is to be the clear focus of my life?

This is how it is designed. The Bible presents the picture that we take all we are and have, including our dreams and ambitions, and purposefully surrender it all to God asking Him to fulfill His purposes through us. And then day by day we walk with Him in faith that He is doing and will continue to do His perfect plan.

These three define how we live.

B. Allow me to define it with the Scripture:

1. *And He summoned the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" - Mark 8:34-37*

2. *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. - Matthew 6:24*

3. *Jesus therefore said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." - John 6:53-56*

4. We take all that we are, including all we hope to become and accomplish and we lose it to God.

C. Examples of those who did:

1. Peter *-As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore. Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you? Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." - John 6:66-69*

2. Paul *-But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. - Philippians 3:7-10*

3. Moses- *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. - Hebrews 11:24-26*

4. Bob Ridley

D. Examples of those who did not:

1. Solomon -"If ever there was a man who could find meaning outside of God, it was Solomon. In terms of intelligence, industry, and accomplishments, he had it all. Solomon used these gifts to accumulate wealth, discover knowledge, and experience pleasure. And he didn't do it in moderation but excess. If Solomon couldn't discover the secret to life, it can't be done."

- Tommy Nelson

2. Leonard Cohen

III. Closing thoughts:

- A. Successful living, a life of joy, purpose and meaning, and it can only be found by taking all of you He has made and losing it to Him and asking Him to accomplish His purposes through you. Or you take what He has given you and set out to gain the whole world.
- B. I've given you examples of those who did and those who did not but please do not deceive yourself into believing that somehow you will be the lone exception; you won't find them in the Bible and you won't find them in life.
- C. If Solomon could not find it, it is because it is not out there.
- D. You do not have to believe this nor do it. You can have your assets and use them as you choose. But, I can promise you that life will not go well for you.
- E. You wind up doing stupid things! Why? Because you took all you had, to do all you wished, only to become a Leonard Cohen sitting silently in an empty room for a week desperately trying to fill the emptiness of his own existence.
- F. So what are you living for that is so valuable as to give up God living His perfect plan through you?
- G. If God is sad, it is not because of your sin, it is because you are missing out on all He has for you. So sad to die without even knowing why you lived.

1. Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and My load is light. - Matthew 11:28-30

2 This thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly. - John 10:10

What Do I Do With People?

Session 3

I. Introduction

A. You are commanded in Scripture to glorify God

- By the decisions you make
- By the way you react to circumstances
- By the way you treat people

B. I am going to present to you that love is not one way to respond to people - it is the only way.

C. It is called the royal law of Scripture

If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. - James 2:8

D. My Background

II. The Two parts of Love

A. Act

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out
- I Corinthians 13:4-6

B. Motive

With a stick shall I come to you or in a love that has as its impelling motive the benefit of the one loved, the exercise of which love demands self-sacrifice, and in the spirit of meekness? -I Corinthians 4:21

C. Definition of Meekness

Meekness in the scriptural sense is an inwrought grace of the soul; And the exercises of it are first and chiefly toward God (Matthew 11:29; James 1:21). The Greek term "expresses that temper or spirit in which we accept his dealings with us without disputing and resisting; and it is closely linked with humility and follows close upon it (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13), because it is only the humble heart which is also the meek, and which, as such, does not fight against God, and more or less struggle and contend with him." "This meekness, however, which is first a meekness with respect of God, is also such in the face of men, even of evil men, out of the thought that these, with the insults and injuries which they may inflict, are permitted and used by him for the chastening and purifying of his people.

D. Love is costly

1. Quote by Amy Carmichael - "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

2. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* - John 3:16

3. *And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?*
- II Corinthians 12:15

III. Who do you love?

In a word – everyone

A. God

And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind! This is the great and foremost commandment.." - Matthew 22:35-38

B. Your Wife

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;...for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church". - Ephesians 5:25,29

1. There are no conditions the wife has to meet - no reciprocity
2. The wife is never commanded to love her husband
3. Not told to love anyone like that

C. Your neighbor

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law. - Romans 13:8-10

1. Love does no wrong - ever
2. Does God love me?
3. A new commandment

A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another. - John 13:34,35

4. Dinner with Ruth Tucker

D. Even your enemies

You have heard it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For 'if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?' - Matthew 5:43-46

IV. Illustrations in Scripture

A. *And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.*

- I Thessalonians 5:14,15

B. *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this - not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.*

- Romans 14:13-19

C. *Let all that you do be done in love.*

- I Corinthians 16:14

D. *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.*

- Colossians 4:6

E. *Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*

- Proverbs 27:6

V. It is also our ministry - defines those we disciple

MDM who possess a genuine love

The ultimate aim of the Christian ministry, after all, is to produce the love which springs from a pure heart, a good conscience and a genuine faith.

- I Timothy 1:5

VI. Application

A. You pray for this and work on this until it becomes who you are.

B. Jesus says this is who I am, this is my Father, this is who I want you to be so that others will see Me in you.

C. This will be the characteristic which sets you apart as Mine.

D. This will change you. It will change your ministry

E. It's guaranteed - in writing

But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

- I Corinthians 12:31

Love never fail.

- I Corinthians 13:8

What Do I Do With Me?

Session 4

I. How do I live my life?

A. Indicators from Scripture

1. *And thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what was good, right, and true before the Lord his God. And every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.* - II Chronicles 31:20,21
2. *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.* - Colossians 3:23
3. *I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense; and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles, its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, then your poverty will come as a robber, and your want like an armed man.* - Proverbs 24:30-34
4. *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.* - Ecclesiastes 9:10

B. You take all of you, the total package, and after losing it all to God, you then cooperate with Him in a spirit of excellence in all that you do as He accomplishes His purposes through you.

You walk in fellowship and obedience to God in a spirit of excellence.

C. "The quality of a man's life is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence." - Tom Landry

D. The Scriptures describe life as brief and exhorts us to live wisely in light of that brevity.

1. *Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.* - James 4:14
2. *Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the extent of my days, let me know how transient I am.* - Psalm 39:4
3. *So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.* - Psalm 90:12
4. *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.* - Ephesians 5:15,16
5. *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.* - I Corinthians 9:24-27

II. So how do you live a life of excellence?

A. First of all, you have to want to. - Few do.

1. Humans are the only species God created that have the ability to alter their capacity. A human can choose to be less than he is capable of.
2. Here's Life America - Training session
3. U.S. Olympic Team - Girls Gymnastics
4. *And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.* - I Corinthians 9:25
5. "As a coach my job is to get men to do what they don't want to do so they can be who they want to be." - Tom Landry

B. Why you act the way you act

1. Because of the way you think

a. *For as he thinks within himself, so he is.* - Proverbs 23:7

b. *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* - Romans 12:2

The transformation takes place as you transform the way you think

c. Your thinking is crucial because if you are not thinking correctly you are not living correctly.

2. Where does your thinking come from?

a. Your value system

b. Magazine article: Mind vs the will.

c. You always decide in the direction of what is valuable to you ... always!

d. All permanent change takes place by the altering of your value system

3. Where do your values come from?

a. Your truth system

III. So how do you alter your value system?

A. Reflection

1. *Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways! You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes." Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways! You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?*

declares the Lord of hosts, Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house."

- Haggai 1:5-7 ,9

B. Re-examining your truth system

C. Ask yourself 4 questions:

1. Who do I want to be?
2. What education, training, experience do I need to become that person?
3. When, where, and through whom am I going to obtain it?
4. What price am I willing to pay for it?

D. Set Smart Goals

Specific

Measurable

Action Oriented

Reasonable

Timely

Only 3% have written goals.

E. Use OATS

Objective

Activities

Time

Serious evaluation

F. Get help from others

1. The mind that brought you to where you are can't take you to where you ought to be.
2. Each of us needs all of us - All of us need each of us.
 - a. A Timothy
 - b. A Paul
 - c. A Barnabas
3. Accountability group

G. Change who you hang with

1. *Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."* - I Corinthians 15:33
2. *Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.* - Proverbs 14:7

H. Face Reality

1. If you could...
2. Neglect is the mother of all failure
3. Most of us have accepted a life far below what God has created and equipped and gifted us to be.
4. You may not always get what you want but you almost always get what you chose.
5. My prayer to God
 - a. *O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth; and I still declare Thy wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who are to come.* - Psalm 71:17,18
 - b. *The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright....* - Psalm 92:12-15a
6. Life is like a parachute jump. You have to get it right the first time.
7. "Life should not be a journey to the grave with intentions of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, "Wow, what a ride"." - Hunter S. Thompson
8. Today you have 100% of your life left.