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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Acts 28:19-20
Lesson #7
Great Commission
6/14/2026

1

Prodigal Son

2

What should we learn from the parable of The Prodigal Son?

(Last week) *Personally*
Disciples of Christ
TAKE THEIR BAPTISM SERIOUSLY

John 15:8

*“By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit,
and so prove to be my disciples.”*

**The Prodigal son comes home
to the gracious arms of his father.**

3

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

We bear his holiness in the same way and to the same extent that he bore our sin.

4

Three great imputations

Romans 5:19

“For as through the **one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners**, even so through the **obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**”

5

What should we learn from the parable of The Prodigal Son?

(Last week) *Personally*
Disciples of Christ
TAKE THEIR BAPTISM SERIOUSLY

(This week) *Corporately*
The Body of Christ
MAKES DISCIPLES

Colossians 1:28

“And we **proclaim** Him, admonishing every man and **teaching** every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man **complete in Christ.**”

6

Matt.28, (Mk.16, Lk.24, Jn.20)

Jesus' "Great Commission"

Matthew 28

"19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- "Go therefore" - **While going through life**
- "make disciples" - **build the Body of Christ**
- "all the nations" - **from diverse cultures, taste, etc.**
- "baptizing them" - **leading them to trust & follow Christ,**
- "teaching them" - **educating them to be fully human,**
- "all that I commanded you" - **through unity and love.**

Matt.28, Mk.16, Lk.24, Jn.20

Jesus' "Great Commission"

Bring to faith in Christ
Disciple making
Building to maturity in Christ

Paul's "Church mandate"

Colossians 1:28

"And we **proclaim** Him, admonishing every man and **teaching** every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man **complete in Christ.**"

Eph.4 Rom.12

The Gospel is "good news" for Prodigal sons.



HOLINESS is the way to God.



The CROSS of Christ FOR us is the way to Holiness.

Older brother bypass

FAITH is the way to Christ.

The works of the Law are an off ramp to death.

Making DISCIPLES is the way to Faith.

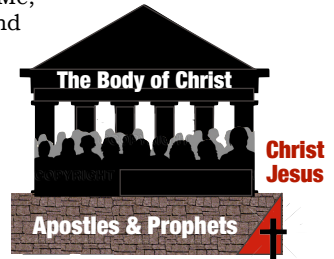
Father's heart freeway

Being a DISCIPLE is the way to making disciples.

John 16

"12 I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But **when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you."

Ephesians 2:20-21
"having been built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple in the Lord.**"



The New Testament epistles

- love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
- be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
- live in **harmony with** one another (Romans 12:16)
- build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- be **likeminded towards** one another (Romans 15:5)
- accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
- forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- be **patient with** one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- be **kind and compassionate** to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
- submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
- consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
- look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
- bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- stir up one another to **love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
- show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
- clothe yourselves with **humility towards** one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- pray for one another (James 5:16)
- confess our faults to one another (James 5:16)

The two greatest commands, on which, according to Jesus, all the others depend, are concerned about relationships, with God and one another

(Matthew 22:36-40)

Ministering with and to one another is not a distraction from the main thing, it is the main thing.

Christian Denominations
The 21st century "church"

Catholicism - 1.2 billion

- Roman Catholic Church (Latin Rite) - 1,129.9 million
- Eastern Catholic Churches (Eastern Rite) - 17.1 million
 - Alexandrian
 - Ethiopian Catholic Church - 0.21 million
 - Coptic Catholic Church - 0.17 million
 - Antiochian (Antiochene or West Syrian)
 - Maronite Catholic Church - 3.1 million
 - Syro-Malankara Catholic Church - 0.5 million
 - Syriac Catholic Church - 0.17 million
 - Armenian
 - Armenian Catholic Church - 0.54 million
 - Chaldean (Eastern Syrian)
 - Syro-Malabar Catholic Church - 4.0 million
 - Chaldean Catholic Church - 0.65 million
- Byzantine (Constantinopolitan)
 - Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church - 4.3 million
 - Melkite Greek Catholic Church - 1.6 million
 - Ruthenian Catholic Church - 0.65 million
 - Slovak Greek Catholic Church - 0.37 million
 - Hungarian Greek Catholic Church - 0.29 million
 - Italo-Greek Catholic Church - 0.07 million
 - Croatian Greek Catholic Church - 0.06 million
 - Belarusian Greek Catholic Church - 0.01 million
 - Romanian Church United with Rome, Greek-Catholic - 0.8 million
- Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church - 0.01 million
- Georgian Byzantine Catholic Church - 0.01 million
- Macedonian Greek Catholic Church - 0.01 million
- Albanian Greek Catholic Church - 0.01 million
- Greek Byzantine Catholic Church - 0.01 million
- Russian Catholic Church - 0.01 million
- Breakaway Catholic Churches - 28 million
 - Apostolic Catholic Church - 5 million
 - Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association - 4 million
 - Philippine Independent Church - 3 million
 - Brazilian Catholic Apostolic Church - 1 million
 - Old Catholic Church - 0.6 million
 - Maravite Church - 0.03 million
 - Liberal Catholic Church - NA

A study in unity at the expense of authenticity, power, and witness.

Protestantism - 670 million

- Baptist churches - 105 million**
 - Southern Baptist Convention - 16.3 million
 - National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. - 7.5 million
 - National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. - 5 million
 - Nigerian Baptist Convention - 3 million
 - Progressive National Baptist Convention - 2.5 million
 - American Baptist Churches USA - 1.4 million
 - Brazilian Baptist Convention - 1.4 million
 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International - 1.2 million
 - Myanmar Baptist Convention - 1.1 million
 - Baptist Community of the Congo River - 1 million
 - National Baptist Convention, Brazil - 1 million
 - National Primitive Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. - 1 million
 - National Missionary Baptist Convention of America - 1 million
 - Samavasiyam of Telugu Baptist Churches - 0.8 million
 - Baptist Convention of Kenya - 0.7 million
 - Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia - 0.6 million
- Methodism - 75 million**
 - United Methodist Church - 12 million
 - African Methodist Episcopal Church - 3 million
 - Methodist Church of Great Britain - NA
 - Methodist Church Nigeria - 2 million
 - African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church - 1.5 million
 - Methodist Church of Southern Africa - 1.7 million
 - Korean Methodist Church - 1.5 million
 - United Methodist Church of Ivory Coast - 1.5 million
 - Christian Methodist Episcopal Church - 0.9 million
 - Methodist Church Ghana - 0.8 million
 - Free Methodist Church - 0.7 million
 - Primitive Methodist Church - NA
 - Chinese Methodist Church in Australia - NA
 - Free Wesleyan Church - NA
 - Free Methodist Church in Canada - NA
 - Methodist Church in India - 0.6 million
 - Evangelical Methodist Church - NA
 - Wesleyan Church - NA
 - Wesleyan Methodist Church-Allegheny Conference - NA
 - Christ's Sanctified Holy Church - NA
- Congregationalism - 5 million**
 - United Church of Christ - 1.2 million
 - Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola - 0.9 million
 - United Congregational Church of Southern Africa - 0.5 million
- Anabaptism and Free churches - 5 million**
 - Schwarzenau Brethren/German Baptist groups - 1.5 million
 - Mennonites - 1.5 million
 - Plymouth Brethren - 1 million
 - Moravians - 0.7 million
 - Amish - 0.2 million
 - Hutterites - 0.2 million
- Quakers - 0.4 million**
- Waldensians - 0.05 million**

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- Lutheranism - 87 million**
 - Evangelical Church in Germany - 26.9 million
 - Church of Sweden - 6.9 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - 4.8 million
 - Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - 4.7 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - 4.6 million
 - Danish National Church - 4.5 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland - 4.3 million
 - Batak Christian Protestant Church - 4 million
 - Church of Norway - 3.8 million
 - Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church - 3 million
 - Malayali Lutheran Church - 2.4 million
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod - 2.4 million
 - The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria - 1.7 million
 - United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India - 1.5 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea - 0.9 million
 - Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church - 0.8 million
 - Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil - 0.7 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia - 0.6 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa - 0.6 million
- Presbyterianism - 40 million**
 - Presbyterian Church of East Africa - 4 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Africa - 3.4 million
 - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - 3.0 million
 - United Church of Canada - 2.5 million
 - United Church in Australia - NA
 - Presbyterian Community of Congo - 2.5 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Korea - 2.4 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Cameroon - 1.8 million
 - Church of Scotland - 1.1 million
 - Presbyterian Church of the Sudan - 1 million
 - Presbyterian Church in Cameroon - 0.7 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Brazil - 0.7 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Ghana - 0.6 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Nigeria - 0.5 million
 - Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa - 0.5 million
 - Presbyterian Church in America - 0.3 million
- Continental Reformed churches - 30 million**
 - Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar - 3.5 million
 - United Church of Zambia - 3.0 million
 - Protestant Church in the Netherlands - 2.5 million
 - Swiss Reformed Church - 2.4 million
 - Evangelical Church of Cameroon - 2 million
 - Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor - 2 million
 - Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa - 0.7 million
 - United Church in Papua New Guinea - 0.6 million
 - United Church of Christ in the Philippines - 0.6 million
 - Protestant Church in Western Indonesia - 0.6 million
 - Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua - 0.6 million
 - Protestant Church in the Moluccas - 0.6 million
 - Reformed Church in Hungary - 0.6 million
 - Reformed Church in Romania - 0.6 million
 - Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa - 0.5 million
- Pentecostalism - 130 million**
 - Assemblies of God - 60 million
 - New Apostolic Church - 11 million
 - International Circle of Faith - 11 million
 - The Pentecostal Mission - 10 million
 - Church of God (Christland) - 9 million
 - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel - 8 million
 - Church of God in Christ - 6 million
 - Apostolic Church - 5.5 million
 - Christian Congregation of Brazil - 2.5 million
 - Universal Church of the Kingdom of God - 2 million
 - Church of God of Prophecy - 1 million
 - God in Love Pentecostal Church - 0.8 million
 - Indian Pentecostal Church of God - NA

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- Non-denominational evangelism - 80 million**
 - Galaxy Chapel - 25 million
 - Born Again Movement - 20 million
 - Association of Vineyard Churches - 15 million
 - New Life Fellowship - 10 million
 - True Jesus Church - 2.5 million
 - Charismatic Episcopal Church - NA
- African initiated churches - 40 million**
 - Zion Christian Church - 15 million
 - Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim - 10 million
 - Kimbanguist Church - 5.5 million
 - Church of the Lord (Aladura) - 3.6 million
 - Council of African Instituted Churches - 3 million
 - Church of Christ Light of the Holy Spirit - 1.4 million
 - African Church of the Holy Spirit - 0.7 million
 - African Israel Niveah Church
- Seventh-day Adventist Church - 17 million**
- Restoration Movement - 7 million**
 - Churches of Christ - 5 million
 - Christian Churches and Churches of Christ - 1.1 million
 - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - 0.7 million
- Nontrinitarianism - 27.5 million**
 - Letter Day Saint movement (Mormonism) - 14.1 million
 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - 13.8 million
 - Community of Christ - 0.25 million
 - Jehovah's Witnesses - 7.3 million
 - Iglesia ni Cristo - 6 million
 - Oneness Pentecostalism - 6 million
 - United Pentecostal Church International - 4 million
 - Pentecostal Assemblies of the World - 1.5 million
 - Church of Christ, Scientist - 0.4 million
 - Friends of Man - 0.07 million
 - Christadelphians - 0.05 million
- Anglicanism - 82 million**
 - Anglican Communion - 80 million
 - Church of Nigeria - 18 million
 - Church of England - 13.4 million
 - Church of Uganda - 8.8 million
 - Church of South India - 3.8 million
 - Anglican Church of Australia - 3.7 million
 - Episcopal Church in the Philippines - 3.0 million
 - Anglican Church in Australia, New Zealand and Polynesia - 2.5 million
 - Anglican Church of Tanzania - 2.5 million
 - Anglican Church of Southern Africa - 2.4 million
 - Episcopal Church of the United States - 2.2 million
 - Anglican Church of Canada - 2.0 million
 - Anglican Church of Kenya - 1.5 million
 - Church of North India - 1.3 million
 - Church of the Province of Rwanda - 1 million
 - Church of Pakistan - 0.8 million
 - Anglican Church of Burundi - 0.8 million
 - Church of the Province of Central Africa - 0.6 million
 - Church of Christ in Congo-Anglican Community of Congo - 0.5 million
 - Scottish Episcopal Church - 0.4 million
 - Church of Ireland - 0.4 million
 - Continuing Anglican movement - 1.5 million
 - Traditional Anglican Communion - 0.5 million
 - Anglican Church in North America - 0.1 million
 - African Orthodox Church - NA
- Restorationism - 1 million**
 - Assyrian Church of the East - 0.5 million
 - Ancient Church of the East - 0.3 million

15

Eastern Orthodoxy - 210 million

- Autocephalous churches**
 - Russian Orthodox Church - 125 million
 - Bosnian Orthodox Church - 18 million
 - Sebanian Orthodox Church - 15 million
 - Church of Greece - 11 million
 - Bulgarian Orthodox Church - 10 million
 - Georgian Orthodox Church - 5 million
 - Greek Orthodox Church of Constantinople - 3.5 million
 - Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch - 2.5 million
 - Greek Orthodox Church of Alexandria - 1.5 million
 - Orthodox Church in America - 1.2 million
 - Polish Orthodox Church - 1 million
 - Albanian Orthodox Church - 0.8 million
 - Cypriot Orthodox Church - 0.7 million
 - Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem - 0.14 million
 - Czech and Slovak Orthodox Church - 0.07 million
- Non-universally recognized churches**
 - Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchate) - 5.5 million
 - Belarusian Autocephalous Orthodox Church - 2.4 million
 - Macedonian Orthodox Church - 2 million
 - Orthodox Church of Greece (Holy Synod in Resistance) - 0.75 million
 - Old Calendar Romanian Orthodox Church - 0.50 million
 - Old Calendar Bulgarian Orthodox Church - 0.45 million
 - Croatian Orthodox Church - 0.36 million
 - Montenegrin Orthodox Church - 0.05 million
 - Orthodox Church in Italy - 0.12 million
- Other separated Orthodox groups**
 - Old Believers - 1.8 million
 - Greek Old Calendarists - 0.86 million
 - Russian True Orthodox Church - 0.85 million
- Oriental Orthodox - 75 million**
 - Autocephalous churches in communion
 - Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church - 45 million
 - Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria - 15.5 million
 - Syrian Orthodox Church - 10 million
 - Armenian Orthodox Church - 8 million
 - Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church - 2.5 million
 - Indian (Malankara) Orthodox Church - 2 million
 - Armenian Orthodox Church of Cilicia - 1.5 million
 - Autonomous churches in communion
 - Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church - 1.2 million
 - Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople - 0.42 million
 - Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem - 0.34 million
 - French Coptic Orthodox Church - 0.01 million
 - Rhith Orthodox Church - 0.01 million
 - Churches not in communion
 - Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church - 1.1 million
 - Malabar Independent Syrian Church - 0.06 million
- Autonomous churches**
 - Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) - 7.2 million
 - Moldovan Orthodox Church - 3.2 million
 - Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia - 1.25 million
 - Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia - 0.62 million
 - Orthodox Church of Romania - 0.34 million
 - Estonian Orthodox Church - 0.3 million
 - Patriarchal Exarchate in Western Europe - 0.15 million
 - English Orthodox Church - 0.08 million
 - Chinese Orthodox Church - 0.03 million
 - Japanese Orthodox Church - 0.02 million
 - Latvian Orthodox Church - 0.02 million

16

When the Sun shines
all other stars
fade out of sight.

17

The Body of Christ is a family, team, orchestra.



not clones of one template

not body parts disconnected

not a class system of different values

18

“A team plays for the name on the front of the jersey not for the name on the back!”

Dean Smith

19

1 Corinthians 1 (3:1-6)

“10 Now **I exhort you, brethren**, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be **no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.** 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, ‘**I am of Paul,**’ and ‘**I of Apollos,**’ and ‘**I of Cephas,**’ and ‘**I of Christ.**’ 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

- **Danger #1 sacrifice diversity to get unity.**

Luke 6:32

“**If you love (only) those who love you,** what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.”

- **Danger #2 motivate with rules to get optics.**

20

Matthew 5

“20 For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness surpasses** that of the scribes and Pharisees, **you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.** ... 48 Therefore **you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**”

- **Danger #3 fail to respect Biblical contexts.**

Galatians 4

“4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might **redeem those who were under the Law,** that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ 7 Therefore **you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.**”

21

- **Danger #4 to much Certainty & control over honesty, humility, & trust in the power of love.**

(!)	(.)	(,)	(?)
“I AM FULLY CONVINCED.”	“I have some settled beliefs.”	“I have tentative insights.”	“I only have questions.”
<i>Proverbs 18:13</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 13:12</i>		
“He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.”	“For now we see in a mirror dimly, ”		
	<i>2 Corinthians 5:14</i>		
	“the love of Christ constrains us ”		

22

Prodigal Son

Next week
Ephesians
4:11-16

Congregational
homecoming
invitation

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