

Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati 405 West Seventh Street Cincinnati, OH 45203 (513) 381-3858 <u>www.union-baptist.net</u> Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

## THE CRITICAL PROCESS OF DISCIPLESHIP

If you want to find out what mattered most to someone, read his last words. Usually, whatever a person considers to be most important is on his mind when he comes to his last days. That's why we pay so much attention to last words, especially those of important people.

As those who seek to be obedient followers of Jesus Christ, we need to know what matters most to Him so it can matter most to us. Thankfully, we don't have to wonder about it. After His resurrection from the dead, and just before His ascension back into heaven, Jesus told His disciples – and us – what was uppermost on His mind. His last words on earth are recorded in *Matthew* 28:18-20.

Notice especially verse 19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." There it is, stated in clear and concise terms: we are to disciple the people of God (in the church age, through the local church) so that they affect the world for Christ. If Christ's mandate for the church is to make disciples, then His will for us as individual believers is that we become disciples through the process of personal spiritual growth. To grow spiritually as a disciple of Christ means that we become like Him. So becoming a disciple is where we ought to be heading in our Christian lives. AMEN.

## ~Dr. Tony Evans

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 - 20

