

True Disciple #14 – Invading

Welcome to True Disciple #14. This is Rod Nichols and I want to take a moment to thank you for your faithfulness so far. If you've been putting into practice what you've learned in the previous 13 messages, you are well on your way to becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ and for that I'm excited. If you've missed any of the messages or would like to review them again, just click on the Weekly Messages button under the current week audio message on the front page of www.TrueDisciple.Info.

Today, I'm going to be talking about invading. You're probably thinking, "What?" The next step in your true disciple journey is to do what Jesus and His disciples did – go into the world to preach the gospel of the Kingdom and make disciples. "Go" just didn't seem like an exciting enough word and as I was praying, God brought to my mind Matthew 11:22:

"And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it."

I see a war here. Those in God's Kingdom, which would be the Godhead of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, plus all the angels, and believers are forcefully advancing the gospel throughout the earth and Satan, his demonic forces, and those people under his control are the violent people attacking Christians.

Here in the U.S. we're sheltered from persecution, so we might encounter someone who speaks against Christians or reacts negatively to your Christian post on Facebook, but in other parts of the world, Christians are being murdered left and right. There is a war going on and we, Jesus's true disciples need to get in the fight.

Next God took me back to Genesis 1:27-28:

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it..."

The Hebrew word that is translated as “subdue” is Kabash (have you ever heard someone say, let’s put the kabash on that). It means to force, bring into bondage, make subservient, dominate, and tread down.

When I first looked at Genesis 1:27-28, this didn’t make any sense, because Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, which was paradise. Why would they need to force it into subjection? Then, God began to show me how he created the world from darkness, but putting His light (glory) into the darkness. We see this in Genesis 1:3 where God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. So often we think this must be the sun, but God doesn’t create it until verse 16. This first light was God’s glory being placed into the earth. It’s the same light that lights the earth in Revelation 22:5 (when there is no longer need for the sun).

This is just my opinion, but I think that when God was creating the earth, He centered His glory light into the spot He called Eden and where He placed Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve had the glory on them (as Moses did when he came down from the mountain). There was still darkness in the rest of the earth and Adam and Eve’s job was to be fruitful (make more humans) and subdue the darkness with God’s glory. (this, of course was before sin entered the world).

After Adam and Eve rebelled against God by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin entered and they lost the glory of God. They were then forced out into the dark world without the ability to subdue it with God’s glory. That’s why God told Adam that the ground would be cursed and he would only eat through painful toil (Genesis 3:17). It wasn’t that God cursed the earth, rather it was already in that condition and was in need of God’s glory.

As born-again believers, we’re now carriers of God’s glory. Jesus has restored the original plan to be fruitful and multiply (make more spiritual children – people who are born-again) and subdue the earth with the glory of God. So, we join with God and the angels to invade the darkness. We are heaven’s invading army.

So, what does that look like?

When you share your testimony of what God has done in your life and encourage someone else to receive Jesus as their Savior, that’s shining God’s glory into the darkness.

When you feed, clothe, provide water, or help the least of these in any way you are subduing.

When you visit the prisoners, take in the homeless, and help the widows and orphans, you are invading the darkness with the glory.

When you stand up for Jesus in a dark world, even in the face of persecution, you are shining brightly for the Lord.

So, put on your armor, pick up your shield and sword (Ephesians 6:10-17) and get into the battle.

The whole premise of true discipleship is moving from inside the church walls into the world to spread the gospel and show God's love to a hurting world. You are already in the army and have been receiving your basic training. Now, Jesus, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, is leading you into battle. The invasion is on, the only question I have for you is, are you in?

That's it for message #14. Next week, we're going to talk about Battle Basics, in order to enhance your invasion success. I'll send notification out by email when it's on the site. If you aren't receiving our weekly updates, please go to www.TrueDisciple.Info and subscribe to the email list on the front page (red starburst in the header or near the bottom of the page). Also, please feel free to share these messages with any of your Christian friends. We need more true disciples in the world.

Thanks for listening. Have a great week and may the Lord abundantly bless you!