

Baptized Disciples of Jesus (BDOJs) - Job Training - 1

Welcome to Training for Baptized (Immersed) Disciples of Jesus

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**Objective: Help disciples accomplish the tasks
assigned by Jesus
in a religiously confused and secular world**

Jesus Tasks for disciples are defined in Matthew 28:18-20.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Disciples Task Summary

- 1. Make Disciples by immersing (baptizing) them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins*
- 2. Teach Disciples to do their best to obey everything Jesus commanded the Apostles*

These words of Jesus enable disciples to be supremely confident in answering basic spiritual questions

Supremely Confident = Spiritually Question proof

Method: Asking religious related questions and being prepared to answer any question about God's word and the church at any time and in any circumstance.

Supremely Confident = Spiritually Question proof

Peter encourages disciples to be ready to and how to answer questions

1 Peter 3:15

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared **to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

In order to answer a question, disciples must first be asked a question and be confident in their answer.

What is a Question?

- A request for information of interest to the questioner
- A training method to ascertain the knowledge of a student
- A method of leading to or calling for a conclusion
- An invitation to ask a question in response

What is an Answer?

- A information transfer in response to a request
- An opportunity to educate the questioner
- An opportunity to ask a question

In answering a question, you know the questioner is interested in your answer.

Why are we talking about “Training” instead of “Teaching” Baptized Disciples of Jesus?

Training is necessary to fully understand and practice what we are taught.

Every activity in this life is accomplished with training, by trial and error or by the experience from others.

What is your experience with training?

- I was raised as a cotton farmer in west Texas,
- Trained as an electrical engineer in Lubbock, Tx ,
- Worked for government laboratories in New Mexico and California for over 20 years, and
- Served as a professor of engineering for over 20 years.

Training Goals for Baptized Disciples of Jesus

How to represent ourselves outside the church building

How to represent the church outside the church building

How to ask spiritual questions that result in a question we want to answer

How to answer questions that educate

What factors make disciples hesitant to engage in spiritual discussions with those outside the church building?

- We are uncertain as how to proceed
- We do not have close personal relations with those outside the church building
- We do not want to argue with the views of others
- We think most others are satisfied with their own religion
- Society tells disciples to keep our religion to ourselves / in the home

First Century Social and Government Environment

- The Roman government was overbearing, religious organizations were many, and slavery was common
- The God of Israel, Jewish Synagogues and Greek, Roman, and consumerism Gods were prevalent -- Immorality was common and accepted by many
- Disciples of Jesus were scorned by the Religious and Roman authorities, feared for their safety, but found favor among their neighbors
- Even in these dire circumstances, disciples made more disciples and the number of souls that worshipped with the church that belongs to Jesus greatly increased.

First century versus contemporary personal relationships

- Travel distance was limited ~ walking distance – work was nearby
- Work was local – human activated – versus machines
- Leisure activities were limited – no TV - internet - video games – front porch culture
- Bottom line – people knew and depended upon their neighbors – every day

First century versus contemporary Religious Environment

- The church that belongs to Jesus also interacted with society in a different manner
- The threat of crucifixion or becoming a torch for Disciples was finite
- The main activity of the church was remembering the body and blood of Jesus.
- Disciples depended upon each other for encouragement, safety and confidence

Our society today is different mainly due to our mobility and the availability of activities that separate us from our neighbors in time and space - which **limits our close association with those outside the church building.**

BDOJs must be supremely confident to go into the world where disciples of Jesus are not welcome.

John 15:18-19

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

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BDOJs must be supremely confident to go into the world where disciples of Jesus are not welcome.

John 17:15-17

¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Disciples of Jesus can go into GO into the world if we are spiritually Question proof with confidence in the Words of Jesus and the grace and mercy of Almighty God.

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To become physically Questionproof, we put on body armor – usually ceramic plates – BDOJs employ the breastplate of righteousness.

Ephesians 6:13-17

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace**. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

The spiritual environment outside the church building is a mixture of multi-religion and anti-religion forces with flawed knowledge that is assumed correct, fervently professed, and minimally practiced.

- Outside the church building the “church of Christ” is just another denomination with a reputation that is employed to isolate the church that belongs to Christ from society.
- A person that identifies as a Christian can believe anything or nothing to the extent that everyone assumes heaven is the default destination of every soul

The spiritual environment outside the church building - continued

- Thus, the word “Christian” and the label “church of Christ” are sacred to BDOJs, but meaningless or at least just a confusing diversion to the lost.
- In the past, those entering the church building had an opportunity to hear to Word and obey to become a BDOJs. – However, in today’s world, very few of the lost will enter the church building

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The first step on the way to being spiritually Question proof is to be supremely confident in how we represent ourselves to those outside the church building.

- When offered the opportunity to define your religion, how do you do so?
- “I am a Baptized Disciple of Jesus”
- Rather than “I am a Christian” or “I am a Christian only”
- This answer is based on the great commission of Jesus – Matthew 28:18-20

Lesson 1 Summary

Jesus Commission to the Apostles (Matthew 28:18-20) is the command and the answer to making more disciples

Disciples can be trained to be spiritually Question proof to assist in making more disciples

The way BDOJs represent themselves and the church that belongs to Christ is critical in reaching those outside the church