

Cost of Discipleship

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I. Introduction.

II. The history of the Navigators.

A. The founder of the Navigators, Dawson Trotman was converted through Scripture memory through a Sunday school program (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27, John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 5:14, John 4:24, Ephesians 2:8-9)

B. Trotman was asked to give his testimony and all of the workers from the lumberyard he worked at showed up. He learned what it meant to follow up then.

C. Trotman was then asked to do Sunday School work.

1. Trotman learned that anyone is different by themselves than they are in a crowd.
2. He also learned that everyone appreciates being called on.
3. He required his boys to memorize Colossians 3:20 on obeying parents in all things.

D. The key point in the Navigator history was when Trotman was directed to a young future seminarian and taught him about witnessing. He then suggested to him that he ought to help another person do the same.

E. The Navigators is about helping people make disciples.

1. You do not have to have a seminary education to make disciples.
2. You merely have to have a burden to make disciples.
3. The Navigators is a disciple-making movement.

III. Points about the price of discipleship.

A. Continuing in the Word. (John 8:31-32)

1. A disciple is one who puts into practice the things of his teacher - he imbibes of the spirit of his teacher.
2. The Word of God is your life. (Deuteronomy 32:34-46)
3. The disciples were learning how to obey. (John 7:17)
4. The disciples were disciplined people who had a system for disciplines such as Bible reading and quiet time.

5. One needs the Word in order to worship God. (Hebrews 4:2, Psalm 119:105; 119:133, Hebrews 4:12)

6. The heart is basically wicked. (Mark 7:21-23, Ephesians)

a. Jesus saves us from the penalty, power and presence of sin through His death, burial and resurrection, which is the gospel. The Holy Spirit fills us as a result. (Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

b. We are primarily concerned with the power of sin. We were predestined to be like Jesus. (Ephesians 1:4, 2:10, Romans 8:29)

7. We take the Word of God and pack it into the wicked receptacle of the heart through many means. The Word is God's perfect expression of himself. (Psalm 8:6, Proverbs 30:5, Revelation 19:13)

8. Have the difficult Scriptures you are trying to memorize on your mind before you fall to sleep. (Deuteronomy 11:18-19, Proverbs 6:19-20)

B. Love. (John 13:34-35)

1. Why is this a new commandment when there is already a commandment to love? (Deuteronomy 6)

2. The new commandment is to love as Christ loved - giving one's life up. (John 3:16)

a. He loved us in atonement.

b. He loved us in forgiveness.

c. Love is not a gift but a commandment. (1 Corinthians 12-13)

d. A disciple is known by how he loves.

3. Christ came not to be ministered unto. (Mark 10:45)

4. Love is a choice; it is not something that you fall into. (John 7:17, 1 Corinthians 15)

5. If you want to be a disciple the cost is love.

C. Fruit-bearing. (John 15:8).

1. The fruit concerned with is not the fruit of character, but the fruit of reproduction. (Galatians 5:22-23, Genesis 1:11)

2. The seed of reproduction is in the fruit.

3. To be fruit-bearing the seed must be planted and it must die. (John 12:24, Luke 9:23)

4. The business of being a disciple is about paying the price of "dying."

5. The disciple must love Jesus more than his family and everything else. (Luke 14:26)
6. The disciple must bear the implement of death - dying to self. (Luke 14:27)

Application questions

1. How does Trotman's life illustrate what it means to be a disciple? Explain.

2. Which of the elements of discipleship convict you the most? How can you approach change in this area?

3. What system do you have in place for Scripture memory? What will you do today to make progress with this system or start one?
