

A Vision of Disciple-making

Max Barnett

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Thessalonians 3:1-8.
- B. Every person ought to find someone he can help with discipleship.
- C. Vision is something a person sees by faith that compels him.
- D. A disciple is a learner.

II. A person begins to get a vision for discipleship when he can endure it no longer. (I Thessalonians 1:1)

- A. Paul did not want younger Christians to yield to temptation, so he sent Timothy back to help the Thessalonians.
- B. It is too easy to find excuses for not doing what God wants a person to do.
- C. Paul was willing to be left alone in need so that Timothy could help others grow and develop.

III. When a person gets a vision for discipleship, he is committed to make disciples as an individual and as a team. (Acts 17:16-17)

- A. Paul was committed to making disciples as an individual.
- B. Paul had a discipleship team, and we need to be a part of a team.
 - 1. We need encouragement.
 - 2. We need to learn.
 - 3. We need to sharpen each other. (Proverbs 27:17)

IV. When a person becomes a worker for the gospel, he begins to have a vision for disciple making.

- A. The command in Matthew 28 is to make disciples.
- B. God gives us all sorts of opportunities to share the gospel.

V. When a person gives oneself to encouraging others in a fight, he begins to have a vision for disciple making.

- A. The thought of laboring in vain moved Paul. (Galatians 4:11, Philippians 4:6, II Corinthians 1)
- B. Paul's goal was not just his growth, but also the growth of others.

VI. When a person has a desire to see others stand firm in the Lord, he has a vision for disciple making. Paul was willing to risk his life for this. (Galatians 4:19, Colossians 1:29, Acts 14, 15:19, 23:24)

Application questions:

1. Would you characterize yourself as having a vision for disciple making based on the message?

2. Which reason for being a part of a discipleship team stands out to you? What strikes you?

3. How can a person increase or develop his passion for disciple making? How would you advise others? Explain.
