

Why Make Disciples?

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I. The Great Commission

Matthew 23:18-20 (RSV): “And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always to the close of the age.”

The Great Commission breaks down into two parts:

A. Winning Men to Christ.

Luke 19: 10 (KJV): “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Acts 20:24 (LB): “But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus, the work of telling others about God’s mighty kindness and love.”

I Timothy 2:4-6 (KJV): “Who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

II Peter 3:9 (KJV): “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

B. Making disciples of men.

Why do you think Christ commanded us to make disciples?

1. It was His own method.

Mark 3:13-15 (KJV): “And He goeth up into a mountain and calleth unto Him who He would, and they came unto him. And He ordained twelve that they should be with him, and that He might send them forth to preach and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out devils.”

Mark 6:31 (Williams): “And He said to them, Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and rest a little while.”

Mark 9:30, 31 (LB): “Leaving the region, they travelled through Galilee where He tried to avoid all publicity so that He could spend time with His disciples teaching them.”

2. It was the Apostle Paul’s method.

Acts 20:4 (KJV): “And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.”

3. It’s the fastest way to get the job done.

Genesis 1:28 (KJV): “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

Examples of multiplication:

- a. Children
- b. Salmon
- c. Grain

John 12:24 (KJV) : “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

II Timothy 2:2 (KJV): “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Isaiah 8:16 (LB): “Write down all these things I am going to do, says the Lord, and seal it up for the future. Entrust it to some godly man, passed on down to godly men of future generations.”

Story of Phillip:

Acts 8:1-8, 26-40 (KJV): “And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house and, haling men and women, committed them to prison. Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did; For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. And the angel of the Lord spoke unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went; and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isaiah, the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran there to him, and heard him read the prophet, Isaiah, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth; In his humiliation his judgment was taken away, and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water. What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus, and, passing through, he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.”

4. It works.

Moses poured his life into Joshua; Elijah poured his life into Elisha.

II. Why I am committed to this means of ministry.

A. Because of the brevity of life.

Psalm 71:9 (KJV): “Cast me not off in the time of old age. Forsake me not when my strength faileth.”

Psalm 71:18 (KJV): "Thou, also, when I am old and gray headed, Oh God, forsake me not until I have showed Thy strength unto this generation and Thy power to everyone that is to come."

Isaiah 46:4 (Berkeley): "Even to old age I am the same and to the time of gray hair I will bear you. I have made you and I will carry you. Even I will bear you and save you."

Psalm 92:14 (Berkeley): "In old age they shall still be bearing fruit. They shall be full of life and vitality."

B. Because of a sense of stewardship.

Job 2:4 (KJV): "And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life."

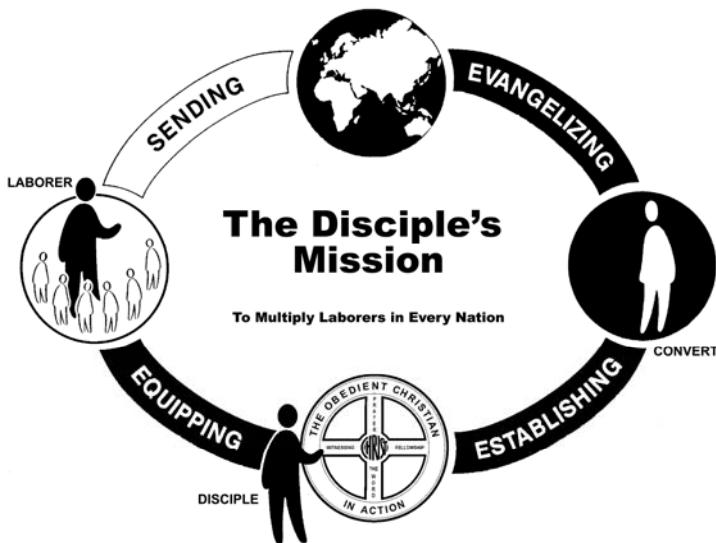
Psalm 66:8, 9 (LB): "Let everyone bless God and sing His praises for He holds our lives in His hands and He holds our feet to the path."

C. A desire for my life to count.

Two things last forever:

1. People

2. The Word of God - Luke 21:33 (KJV) : "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."



"To Know, love, and glorify God and to be used of Him to raise up qualified laborers, in significant numbers, as fast as possible to help fulfill the Great Commission."

III. Misconceptions in the Ministry of Multiplication

A. It is the only way to do it.

John 21:15-17 (KJV): “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”

I Peter 5:1, 2 (KJV) : “The leaders who are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight of it, not by constraint but willingly; not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind.”

Ephesians 4:11, 12 (KJV): “And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

B. You have to be a finished product in order to help others.

C. Ministers can't do it.

D. You must be a minister to do it.

E. It's an unrealistic approach.

F. You must see immediate, measurable results.

G. Paul was not trained.

H. It will always succeed.

II Kings 5:5, 8-11, 15, 16, 20-27 (KJV): “And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment ... And it was, when Elisha, the man of God, had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go

and wash in the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, he will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper ... And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him. And he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; now, therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it, but he refused ... But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman, this Syrian in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: But, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying Behold, even now there are come to me from Mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants, and they bore them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house; and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither: And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive yards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy, therefore, of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.”