

The “How to Process” of Making Disciples

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Introduction.

A. We are seeking answers to three questions concerning disciple making.

1. Why?

a. Because discipleship making is commanded by Jesus.

b. The early church practiced it.

2. What?

a. A disciple is a learner.

b. A disciple is a follower.

c. A disciple is a reproducer.

3. Tonight we want to look at how to make disciples.

a. A. B. Bruce’s *The Training of the Twelve* is a classic read.

1. I’m reading it for the 41st time.

2. This stretches my mind.

b. Dr. Merrill Tenney told me to master the Master’s life.

1. I spend at least one month a year focusing on a Gospel.

2. Study not only for the message but for the method of Christ.

c. I want to wet your appetite of how Jesus ministered.

I. Six principles available to us all regarding discipleship that emanate from Jesus.

A. Incarnation.

1. God takes truth and clothes it with a clean man or woman to demonstrate his grace.

a. The Word became flesh. (John 1:14)

b. Grace and truth were expressed in Jesus.

c. Some people are gracious but need truth; some have truth but need grace.

d. Why did Jesus visit earth?

e. He came to model grace and truth, and we are to do the same.

1. We are models not of perfection.

2. We are models of progression. (1 Timothy 4:15-16)

3. We should be growing.

4. One church I know loves its pastor because he models Christ.

5. People are looking to see congruence between our message and our lives.

6. Watch our life and doctrine closely (1 Timothy 4:16)

7. Once the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray because they had seen its importance to Jesus. (Luke 11:1)

8. Would anyone ask you to teach them to pray?

9. A student asked me for help with a problem and after we prayed he told me I was the first professor who had prayed with him.

2. We all agree that prayer is important but how much do we pray?

B. Selection.

1. Jesus didn't disciple everyone and neither can we.

a. Jesus chose twelve (Luke 6:12-19) after encountering opposition after healing the paralytic. (Luke 5:17-21)

b. Satan does not attack programs until it begins impacting people.

c. Soon the religious leaders were enraged. (Luke 6:11)

d. When they plotted his death Jesus chose his disciples.

e. We will not get serious about discipleship until we realize we are in the process of dying.

2. Three principles.

a. Jesus chose men with proven FAT characteristics.

1. Faithful, despite the opposition.

2. Available though others were not.

- i. Jesus asked Peter to borrow his boat.
 - ii. Fishermen are possessive about their boats.
 - 3. Teachable, not smart, in contrast to the Pharisees.
 - i. The Pharisees knew the word but they missed the Messiah.
 - ii. I want students that are teachable.
- b. Jesus chose men after much prayer.
 - 1. He often spent entire nights in prayer.
 - 2. He said his disciples were given to him by God. (John 17:6, 9)
 - 3. Let God choose and don't depend on your own wisdom.
 - 4. When some become Judas' don't be surprised because God gave them.
- c. Opt for diversity not uniformity.
 - 1. Extroverts
 - 2. Introverts.

C. Association.

- 1. You can impress people at a distance; you can only impact them up close. (Mark 3:14)
- 2. Jesus picked men so they might be with him and send them out.
 - a. The private involvement precedes public involvement.
 - b. A great need in discipleship is personal exposure to mature men.
 - c. Do people ever see you when you're angry?
 - d. If you put someone on a pedestal they will certainly fall.
 - e. People want to see you in a real light.
 - f. After a trip to Asia I showed pictures to my congregation but only a few doctors was the reality of a pharmacy without pharmaceuticals

D. Training.

- 1. Jesus taught and called the twelve to preach, giving them authority over sickness and over evil spirits. (Mark 6:6-13)

a. Jesus demonstrated what he wanted his disciples to do.

b. Jesus instructed them regarding how to minister.

c. Jesus sent them out two-by-two.

2. Jesus employed a total training model.

a. He told them what to do.

b. If you are saying the same thing week by week no one is listening.

c. People need to hear what you're saying but also see what you do.

d. There is a controlled stage where a person can fail without devastation.

e. There is a real life stage where prior training becomes essential.

f. The disciples could not drive out one evil spirit because this kind comes out only by prayer and fasting.

g. This total training principle is employed effectively by cults.

E. Delegation.

1. We have not chosen Jesus, he chose us. (John 15:15)

2. As the Father sent Jesus so Jesus sends his disciples. (John 17:18)

3. We should never do for others what they should do for themselves.

4. We should never throw cold water on another's enthusiasm for discovering truth in the word.

F. Expectation.

1. Jesus changed Peter's name to Rock. (Matthew 16:18)

2. How do you see people?

3. Would you like to have the disciples as your followers?

4. I learned not to judge my students because I don't know what God is doing in them.

5. We can't predict winners.