

Dynamics of Discipleship - Part 3

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Introduction.

C. S. Lewis said all that is not eternal is eternally out of date. Only God's word and his people are eternal. Spend your time building God's word into God's people. We have been studying discipleship. My fear is that you will succeed in doing the wrong things.

We look at what a disciple is. A learner who learns about Christ. A follower so we help them follow. A reproducer so we help them reproduce.

Today we look at how to make disciples. A mentor told me to spend my life mastering Jesus Christ. Therefore I began spending much time studying the Gospels. Christ is the only perfect discipler.

I. Six principles of disciples are important to the process of discipleship.

A. Incarnation.

1. Why did God choose to incarnate his son?

- a. We beheld his glory and grace.
- b. Many Christians know truth but need grace too.
- c. What we are is more important than what we do.
- d. Read the New Testament and look for the principle of modeling.

1. Paul told his disciples to practice what they saw in him. (Phil 4:9)

2. Can you tell your disciples this?

2. One Scripture we need to think of every day. (1 Timothy 4:12-15)

- a. We are called to be models of progression.
- b. We need to model honesty and growth.

3. Jesus taught his disciples to pray. (Luke 11:1)

- a. They had found Jesus on his knees often.
- b. Has anyone asked you to teach them about prayer because they have found you on your knees?
- c. One man I prayed with told me that no professor had prayed with him in seven years.

B. Collection. (Luke 6:12-19)

1. Luke 5:17-6:11 is the opposition section in Jesus' ministry, beginning with a man healed of paralysis and ending with a man healed of a withered hand.

a. Luke 6:11 reaches a climax where the Pharisees were outraged with Jesus.

b. Are we ready to obey Jesus even if it upsets others?

c. We aren't going to be here forever; we may not have 20 years; maybe not 10 days.

2. Three principles about choices.

a. Make choices on the basis of extensive exposure.

1. Chapter 6:12 was probably two years into Jesus' mission.

2. Jesus chose his disciples on the basis of their exposure with him.

c. Bathe your choices in prayer.

1. Jesus chose the ones the Father gave him. (John 17:6, 9)

2. If we don't pray over our choices we will

c. Opt for diversity, not uniformity.

1. We like to choose those we like and who like us.

2. Jesus chose an unlikely lot.

3. Most of us in ministry have not set records in picking winners.

4. God chooses not on the basis of who we are but who we might become.

3. Association. (Mark 3:13-14)

a. Jesus chose some to be with him.

b. The task of preaching is secondary.

c. The relationship with God is more important than ministering to people.

d. *Ordering your Private World* by Gordon MacDonald is must reading for ministers.

1. Our private time with Jesus makes our ministry.

2. Ministry not backed up by quality time with Jesus is empty.

3. You can impact people from a distance but you can only disciple them up close.
4. Bigger is not always better.
5. We are running into seminary graduates having a big impact.
6. Much learning happens outside the four walls of a class or a church.
7. Jesus spent time alone with his disciples often.

4. Training. (Mark 6:6)

- a. Jesus taught and sent out his disciples to have authority over evil spirits, having no money or extra bag.
- b. They were told if any rejects them to shake off the dust of their feet and go elsewhere.
- c. They had a powerful ministry and returned with joy.
- d. Three statements:
 1. Jesus demonstrated what he wanted his disciples to do.
 - i. Are you leading anyone to Christ?
 - ii. How can you ask your disciples to lead some to Christ?
 2. Jesus instructed them concerning how to make disciples.
 3. Jesus sent them out in teams.
 - i. Lone Ranger students often fall away.
 - ii. Students connected with others succeed.

5. Delegation. (John 15:16)

- a. As the Father sent Jesus so he sends his disciples. (John 17:18)
- b. We should not do for others what they should do for themselves.
- c. Parents who do everything for their children ruin their ability to make decisions.
- d. Many in ministry have not worked out their relationship with their parents.

1. We need to appreciate the positive.

2. We need to forgive the negative.

- e. My son cut open up a cocoon to see what's inside and to help it.

- f. If we bail people out of the educational experiences God engineers to grow them we hurt them.

6. Expectation.

- a. Jesus called Peter rock. (John 1:42)

- b. How you see people will determine what they become.

- c. I can only remember two public school teachers, one I gave a hard time to, the other who affirmed me.

1. I worked hard for the one who affirmed me.

2. I am eternally grateful that she believed in me.

- d. My greatest contribution over the years is to believe I could be used to affirm people and believe in them.

- e. My pray for you is that you will go back a different person and see your people differently.