

## **Need and the Local Church**

### *QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION*

1. Can the pulpit ministry meet every need in the church? (cf w/ “. . . and how shall they hear without a preacher?”)
2. Is the pulpit ministry no longer appropriate . . . I. e., should it be replaced entirely by discipleship-type ministries? Why or why not?
3. What about Taylor’s perspective of discipline as the key to discipleship? Can we say that the church’s weaknesses are rooted in lack of discipline?

4. How does the following verse apply to the need for discipleship in the local church? *Luke 9:62* - “Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

# Jesus the Discipler, part 1

## I. Definitions

- A. **Disciple** - a person who makes another's teachings a way of life
- B. **Discipline** - reactive behavior on the part of authority to prevent or correct deviant behavior on the part of a disciple [not wrong and often necessary -- commanded many times]
- C. **Discipling** - constructive behavior (proactive) on the part of authority to ensure adherence to the teachings of that authority  
Mt. 28:19; John 21:15-19

## II. Jesus the Discipler John 17:6-26

- A. A revealer of God's personal character and glory v. 6, 11, 22, 26]
- B. A faithful steward of God's word v. 8, 14, 26
- C. A loving mediator on behalf of the disciples v. 9ff
  - 1. Prayer for their righteous unity in Christ v. 11, 20-23
  - 2. Prayer for their protection from evil v. 14-16
  - 3. Prayer for their perseverance v. 24
  - 4. Prayer for their ministries v. 17-20
- D. A sanctified example v. 19, 11&22,23

## Jesus the Discipler, part 2

### *MATTHEW 4-25*

#### **5-7 Sermon on the Mount (to disciples) overheard by multitudes? (7:28)**

- axiom 5:3-12 (Beatitudes)
- exhortation 5:13-20, warning 7:24-27
- application of Scripture 5:21-48
- deals with “practical matters” 6-7
  - prayer anxiety
  - fasting judging
- deals with “doctrinal” matters
  - way of salvation eschatology (7:21-23) works  
(7:16-20)

#### **8ff - Ministry**

- 8:18-22 Christ tests His followers. Also, 16:13-20
- 9:11-17 Always ready to answer questions (even dumb ones)  
also 11:1-6; 12:1-14; 15:1-20; 18; 19; 22
- 10:5-42 Specific instructions on what to do.
  - where to go
  - what to say
  - how to act
  - what to watch out for
  - what to expect
  - why to have hope
  - why to carry on (motivation) see also 19:27-30  
(More instructions on discipleship - “count the cost”  
16:24-28)
- Logic/ common sense — 12:11,12, 25-27, 17:24-27; 22:15-22
- Parables — chap 13, 21, 22, 24, 25
- Didn’t waste effort — 13:58
- Provision — 14: 13-21, 15:32-39
- Correcting wrong attitudes — 16:21-23; 18-21ff
- Practical matters that will be needed in the future — 18:15-20, 24f  
eschatology (church discipline)
- Example of dealing with individuals — 17:1, 14-21; 19:16-26 (Rich  
Young Ruler); 20:29-34 (“Narrow is the gate & few there be that find  
it. . .”)
- Openness and honesty — 17:22-23 (hard sayings)

Handling group tensions — 19:27-20:28  
Speaking with authority — 7:28, 29 cf. 21:23-46  
Denunciation of false religion — 23  
Patience, Compassion, Persistence — (John 21:15-17)  
Comfort — (Cf. John 14:16 w/Luke 24:36ff)

## Discipleship in the Early Church

### I. Methods — One-on-one

#### A. Acts 18:24-28 Apollos/Aquilla and Priscilla

1. “They took him aside.”

2. Logic and fact

v. 26 “explained” Aor. Act. Ind. 3P fr. ἐκτίθημι, *explain, set forth* — a closely reasoned argument to explain or clarify - cf. 28:23

#### B. Paul

—Look at the letters to Timothy and Titus: very practical, personal, intense.

#### C. Nathan and David

II Samuel 12 - Confrontation

### II. Paul’s Training Methods

(Adapted from *Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s or Ours?* by Roland Allen)

#### A. He proclaimed a simple Gospel — I Cor. 15:1-4

1. God the Father and Creator

2. Jesus Christ the Son as Redeemer, Savior, and Resurrected Lord

3. The Spirit as Indwelling Guide, Comforter, Enabler

#### B. He provided a simple tradition — II Thess. 2:15;3:6; I Cor. 11

—He did not force his own model of the Church upon them (other than the basic requirements — Word, Sacraments, leadership). (Allen, p. 90)

#### C. He trained them to be independent of him. — Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5

—appointing (literally, *electing by a show of hands*) elders (not bringing in catechists) from the congregation (Allen, pp. 93-4, 100, 89)

#### D. He encouraged mutual instruction — I Cor. 14:26-40

1. Services had no prescribed form other than the form of the sacraments. (Allen, p. 89)
2. Converts were taught how to read the Scriptures for themselves.
3. The churches were taught how to discipline themselves in accordance with Godly principles.

## Making Disciples — Part 1

What it means to be a disciple: or, the signs of a true disciple — Gal. 5:22,23

Goals:

- (From Gal. 5:22, 23) —
  - Faith \
  - Hope | — 1 Cor. 13; Col. 1:3-6
  - Love /
  - Growth (in what ways?) I Peter 2:1-5
    - Sanctification in works
    - Love for the Word
    - Delight in worship and the church
  - Holiness/Sanctity (Gal. 5:24)
  - Obedience—“If you love me, keep my commandments.”

How do we see these come about in our own lives? *EXERCISE & DIET!*

How should we go about seeking them in the lives of others? (methods)

## Making Disciples — Part 2

Needs emphasis

<b>Pro</b>	<b>Con</b>
Meets them where they're at	needs change
point of “infiltration”	often temporary solutions
provides sense of love and belonging	works on symptoms, not cause
companionship of peers	human centered
	believes a “welfare” system (give them a fish, but don't teach them how to fish.)

Doctrinal emphasis

<b>Pro</b>	<b>Con</b>
Discipler on solid ground	little application
knowledge	lack of love
grounded in God's Word	spiritual complacency (Ephesian church Rev. 2:1-7)
	dead orthodoxy

*Balance:* I Thessalonians 2:7,8

## **Training Objectives —Basic Needs of Growing Christians**

- I. Protection from evil world (John 17)**
  - A. Immunization by the Word of God
    - 1. Meditation
    - 2. Memory
  - B. Prayer
    - 1. You for them
    - 2. Them for them
  
- II. Fellowship with other believers—“not forsaking the assembly”**
  - A. Teach them how to worship corporately —Corinthians
  - B. Teach them how to edify others—Epistle to Philippians
  - C. Teach them how to serve others—Epistle to Philippians
  - D. Teach them how to be edified and served by others—Jesus and disciples’ feet
  
- III. Food—I Peter 2:2-3**
  - A. Teach them right doctrine (See also Acts 18:24-28, Apollos)  
*See excursus “Milk to meat” on next page.*
  - B. Teach them how to study themselves  
“Work out your own salvation with fear” Philippians 2:12  
(cf. promise of Spirit of Christ, John 14 & ff.)
  
- IV. Training—I Thessalonians 2:11**
  - A. Focus on “how”—I Thessalonians 4:1 (“Why” will come under III, above)
  - B. Be an example—Philippians 4:9
  - C. Help by setting goals of growth
    - 1. Fellowship with Christ and the Father—Job 23:12
    - 2. Consistency of walk—Christlikeness—He is the same always—Hebrews 13:8

3. Maturity of understanding—Hebrews 5:12f  
(discernment about life and the meaning and application of  
the Word)

## **Excursus: Milk to Meat—Hebrews 5:11-6:3,7,8**

*Questions to ask:*

1. What is milk and what is meat? How do we determine what is foundational and what is meant to build upon the foundation? For example, how do you decide that baptism is foundational and acknowledging Christ as Lord is something that comes with growth?
2. When do you make the transition from foundational principles to more advanced material? Besides the obvious answer (“When they’re ready?”), how do you know when someone is ready to start chewing on tougher food?

*When they demonstrate proficiency in what they have already received.*

Consider the following diagrams. Which do you think portrays more accurately the proper approach to making the necessary transitions between elementary and advanced material?

3. As corollary to #2 above, what do you do when someone wants to get into stuff that is way too deep for them? How do you view such a desire on their part? What should your attitude be towards them? To what degree should you answer their question? Who do you think you are, anyway? Who are you to say that it is too deep for them? You have to make a judgment call, but how far should you go?

*Comparison #1*—a father to a child. Now just with food, but with the questions that all children eventually ask.

*Comparision #2*—Christ with the disicples. He didn't unload all there was to know the moment that He called them.

*End Excursus*

## **Developing Workers — Lesson 1: *What to look for***

Making *workers* out of *disciples*: II Timothy 2:2; I Timothy 5:22

### **I. A vision for multiplication:**

Colossians 1:28,29 “fields white unto harvest”

I Thessalonians 1:6,8

Psalm 116:10 w/ II Corinthians 4:13

John 17:20

II Corinthians 2:12,13

Isaiah 58:12

Acts 26:18

### **II. A heart for people: Seeing them as God sees them**

I John 3:17, 18

John 17 (Christ’s compassion)

Isaiah 53:4

I Thessalonians 2:7,8 (motto of the ministry)

Matthew 23:37

Hebrews 13:3

Romans 12:9-16

Augustine’s funeral sermon

### **III. A willingness to be taught: (humility)**

Acts 18:24-28

ex: Joshua under Moses

### **IV. A hunger to be involved: (with a servant’s heart)**

II Corinthians 4:11-16

Mark 10:45 (SH)

“Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel.” I Corinthians 9:16

Philippians 2:19-30

John 3:30 (SH)

cf. James 3:1 w/ I Timothy 3:1

Jeremiah — “if I don’t speak, I’ll burn up.”

### **V. A hunger for God:**

Psalm 42:1; 63:8

Luke 9:23; 14:33

## Developing Workers — Lecture 2: *Your Task*

### I. **Transmission by Example**

I Thessalonians 1:5; example of Christ before His disciples

### II. **Availability**

I John 1:1 - Jesus and Nicodemus

### III. **Transparency**

A. Being an open book, being seen as we are

B. Open to those who can handle what they see—Matthew 17:1,2; 26:36-38

C. Paul to Festus and Agrippa—“I wish you were like me in every way. . .”

“I’d rather see a sermon  
Than hear one anyday.  
I’d rather one would walk with me  
Then merely tell the way.” Edgar Guest

### IV. **Personal Attention**

A. “The willingness to invest time with a few implies an unwillingness to allow yourself to be spread too thin.” (L. Eims) —II Timothy 4:7; John 17:4

B. Giving of our lives for the lives of others—I John 3:16

### V. **Some “Don’ts”**

A. Possessiveness—They are Christ’s not yours—John 21:17; I Peter 5:2

B. Blindness to Weaknesses—They still have a ways to go. Let them work with others who can see them more objectively.

C. Reproducing Your Weaknesses—Luke 6:40

## **Developing Leadership—Lecture 1: Characteristics of a Potential Leader**

*Introduction:* In a lack of leadership, someone will step into the vacuum. (cf. rise of Roman bishop after sack of Rome by the Gauls) By carefully choosing leaders ahead of time, you can prevent the wrong sort of leaders from rising to the top. Here's what to look for.

- I. Drive**  
Acts 20:24; Philippians 3:14; 1:29
- II. Discernment of character of others (Not Naive)**  
Proverbs 7:7,8, cf. Proverbs 9:1-12
- III. Dependable**  
Faithfulness through tough times as well as good.  
(cf. I Kings 20:39,40 35-43)
- IV. Resourceful**  
Judges 3:31
- V. Flexible**  
I Corinthians 9:19-23
- VI. Enthusiastic (eager, not just willing)**  
Psalms 119:10
- VII. Hardworking**  
Moses, David, disciples (fishermen)
- VIII. Aware (observant)**  
Proverbs 24:30-34
- IX. Confident—"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."**
- X. Stable—in mind, emotions, and doctrine**  
Abraham vs. Lot
- XI. Organized**

Note Christ's sending out of the twelve and the seventy in Matthew's gospel. (see also Eims, pp. 133, 134 for guidelines of personal and project organization)

## Developing Leadership—Lecture 2: Training Leaders

### I. Your Attitudes

- A. It's going to take time—a lot of it.
- B. I will have to sacrifice for the sake of my disciple.
  - 1. Time
  - 2. Yourself

### II. Your Strategy

- A. Develop depth in his character
  - 1. Do not assume the need for discipling in the areas of doctrine and his relationship with God is over.
  - 2. Challenge him in these areas constantly.
  - 3. Knowing God's Word and way is the key to discernment and moral stamina.
- B. Discover his calling and gifts. (These will be related.)
  - 1. His calling is important because it gives him purpose.
  - 2. His gifts are important because they give him ability.
  - 3. Build up strengths as well as correct weaknesses.
- C. Train him in key areas of practical ministry.
  - 1. Attitude of humility and compassion for the flock.
  - 2. Team spirit—not just dictating
  - 3. Practice—throw him in and let him start swimming  
[Supervise him—not too closely—to guide him in learning:
    - a. To manage himself
    - b. To manage his time
    - c. To manage the ministry
    - d. To manage his own team
    - e. To manage his finances
    - f. To manage his family in proper relationship to the ministry
    - g. To be an effective co-worker in the Church]
- D. Provide a favorable climate for learning (See Eims, pp. 145,6)
- E. Put him in positions where he has to depend on the Lord.
- F. Train him to communicate clearly.

Mark 1:22; Luke 4:22,32

## **Discipling in the Christian School**

*Introduction:* Many Christian schools serve only as information stations with Bible classes. All too often, teachers view students as problems to be dealt with, rather than as human beings who need reconciliation with their Creator. Those in the public education system believe that they must “disciple” students in the principles of humanism, and they spend mega-bucks and time to see that happen. The Christian school educator must put forth no less effort.

### **I. Discipling takes place inside the classroom.**

- A. You must demonstrate respect for the student. “Do not provoke to wrath”
  - 1. Show respect for their opinions. “Do not ignore”
  - 2. Show respect for their feelings. “Do not ridicule”
  - 3. Show respect for their character. “Do not condescend”  
(Also, do not hold past failures/sins against them.)
  - 4. Show respect for their souls. “Do not withhold correction”
  - 5. Show respect for their time. “Do not waste time” (Be on time)
    - a. You must teach thoroughly. *Don’t skimp!*
    - b. You must teach enthusiastically. *Believe it!*
    - c. You must teach “wonder-fully” *Make it interesting!*
- B. You must be sensitive to the need of the hour. “Do not be a slave to curriculum”

### **II. Discipling takes place outside the classroom.**

- A. You must be willing to spend extra time with the student. “Do not be stingy”
- B. You must show an interest in what interests them. “Do not be self-absorbed”  
sports, arts, accomplishments, and activities outside of school
- C. You must get to know the student’s family. “Do not be timid”  
phone calls, notes, socializing
- D. You must know the student well to have a right to offer counsel. “Do not be aloof”  
(They have to trust you before they’ll listen.)

E. You must be an example of Godliness. “Do not be a stumbling block”

[A note about teaching in public schools: The principles outlines above apply equally to the public school setting. The only difference is the extent of the subject matter you may be allowed to cover in class.]

## **Discipling Young People**

1. Be **Genuine** in your personality. *Being yourself*
  
2. Be **Available** with your time. *Giving yourself*
  
3. Be **Prayerful** in your ministry. *Interceding daily*
  
4. Be **Biblical** in your standards. *Studying Scripture*
  
5. Be **Consistent** in your behavior. *Living your standards*
  
6. Be **Compassionate** in your actions. *Loving kids*
  
7. Be **Professional** in your relationships. *Keeping your distance*
  
8. Be **Supportive** of parents and church. *Honoring authority*

9. Be **Trustworthy** in your counseling.

*Keeping confidences*

10. Be **Dependable** in your leadership.

*Following through*