

How To Make Disciples

Listen to Audio #5

I. Selecting People

A. Basic Insights

1. You must be a disciple.

Isaiah 37:31 (KJV): “And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root down ward, and bear fruit upward.”

2. Only God really chooses men.

I Timothy 1:18 (NEB): “This charge, son Timothy, I lay upon you, following that prophetic utterance which first pointed you out to me ...”

3. His selection may not be the ones we would choose.

I Samuel 16:6, 7 (KJV): “And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him. But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”

- a. Men who are great but not good.
- b. Men who are good but not great.
- c. Men who are both good and great.
- d. Men who are neither good nor great.

4. Have a fishing pond.

- a. They were curious.

John 1:35-39 (KJV): “Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; and looking upon Jesus as He walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto Him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where

dweldest Thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.”

b. They became convinced.

Matthew 16: 13-16 (KJV): “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some Elias, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

c. Committed.

John 6:66 (KJV): “from that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.”

B. Qualities to look for in a man.

1. Availability.

Isaiah 6:8 (KJV): “Also, I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said, I, Here am I, send me.”

Ruth 1: 16-17 (KJV): “And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee. For whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. Where thou diest will I die and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me and more also if aught but death part thee and me.”

II Kings 2:2 (KJV): “And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee, for the Lord has sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.”

I Samuel 14:6, 7 (KJV): “And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few. And his armour bearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.”

Pay close attention to the guy that keeps “hanging around”.

Judges 3:31 (KJV): “And after him was Shamgar, the son of Anath which slew of the Philistines 600 men with an oxgoad and he also delivered Israel.”

2. A heart for God.

Deuteronomy 5:29 (KJV): “Oh, that there were such an heart in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always that it might be well with them and with their children forever.”

II Chronicles 16:9 (KJV): “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.”

Psalms 34:15 (LB): “For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives and He gives attention when they cry to Him.”

Psalms 53:2 (LB): “God looks down from heaven searching among all mankind to see if there is a single one who does right and really seeks for God.”

3. A love for people.

Matthew 22:34-40 (KJV): “But when the Pharisees had heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

4. Faithful.

Luke 16:10 (KJV): “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Daniel 6:3, 4 (KJV): “Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king - thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.”

Nehemiah 9:7, 8 (KJV): “Thou art the Lord God who didst choose Abram and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees and gavest him the name of Abraham and foundest his heart faithful before Thee.”

Proverbs 25:19 (KJV) : “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”

C. Basic Ground Rules

1. Recruit to Jesus and a vision of the ministry not to an organization or yourself.

a. The dangers of recruiting to yourself:

1. Pride
2. Building emotionally dependent cripples.
3. Making them unable to work with another leader.
4. They may look to you instead of God.

2. Be sure he understands that in being .available for help, he isn't doing you or God a favor.

3. Help includes the whole man.

4. The door to bail out is always open.

II. Helping People

A. Every believer is in God's program of receiving help.

1. God's objective.

Romans 8:29 (KJV): “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

2. Growth is a life-long process.

I John 3:2 (KJV): “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

3. When we refuse to grow, it is to our own hurt.

Luke 7:30 (Williams): “But the Pharisees and experts in the law ordered God’s purpose for themselves by refusing to be baptized by Him.”

B. God uses many means of growth.

1. His Word - Psalm 119:105 (KJV) : “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and alight unto my path.”
2. Our own conscience.
3. The Holy Spirit.
4. Circumstances.
5. Other people.

C. To be used of God to make disciples, we must be willing to pay the price.

1. In time - Psalm 90:12 (KJV): “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”
2. Lack of recognition.

I Thessalonians 4:11, 12 (Phillips): “Yet we urge you to have more and more of this love and to make it your ambition to have no ambition. Be busy with your own affairs and do your work yourselves. The result will be a reputation for honesty in the world outside and an honorable independence.”

3. Inconvenience.

Luke 22:27 (KJV): “For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.”

4. Hurt.

II Corinthians 12:15 (KJV): “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.”

II Corinthians 13:7 (LB): “I pray that you will live good lives. Not because that will be a feather in our cap proving that what we teach is right, no, we want you to do right, even if we are despised.”

II Corinthians 13:9 (LB): “We are glad to be weak and despised if you are really strong. Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians.”

5. Vulnerability to exposure.

II Timothy 3:10, 11 (KJV): “But thou has fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconia, at Lystra, what persecutions I endure but out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

You can't hide from the man you're helping.

6. Tunnelling while others are climbing.

Jeremiah 45:5 (KJV): “And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the Lord: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.”

7. Seeing your weaknesses reproduced.

I Samuel 2:12, 29 (KJV): “Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial, they knew not the Lord ... Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?”

I Samuel 3:13 (KJV): “For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained then not.”

I Samuel 8:1-5 (KJV): “And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah; they were judges in Beersheba. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. Then all the leaders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

8. Your life.

Isaiah 43:4 (KJV): “Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou has been honorable and I have loved thee. Therefore, will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.”