

Raising the Next Generation

Key Men's Invitational February 19-22, 2004

This workshop can take any number of directions. The approach I have taken is to examine different types of people portrayed in scripture, examining some strengths and weaknesses of these types of people and then seeing what we can emulate or drop as we raise the next generation. When I use the word Church, it is in the context of the local assembly. You will get the most out of these notes if you follow along as you listen to the message.

Who do we have in the Church Today?

1. Non Believers

- Some come to Church out of habit but do not know or seek the savior.
- They are like one who runs alongside an athlete, cheering him all the way, but never receiving a price because they do not run according to the rules.
- The scriptures admonish us

Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24 b

2. Chief Priests & Teachers of the Law

- They know where to find Jesus **but** they do not seek him – Matthew 2:1-6
- They see Christ's miracles **but** attribute the power to the enemy – Mark 3:22
- They “believe” the truth of God's Word **but** they fight against it – Matt 27:62-66

You do not want to raise this kind of generation.

3. Carnal Christians

- Not growing because they struggle with sin
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 - Jealousy, strife
- Phil 4:2-3 - Disagreements
- “I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life”.

Many in the Body are Carnal

- This is a good starting point in raising the next generation – but we need to identify and pull out the weeds.
- *“He who would grow a clean pasture does not reserve a plot of weeds next door”*

Discussion Question 1

- What are some of the weeds you have identified in your life and in the lives of those you are raising?

4. Young Disciples

- Spend time with Jesus – but do not refer to him when faced with life issues. Matt 14:13-24

- They see His miracles but learn nothing – Matthew 16:5-12
- They hear God speak but think it has thundered! John 12:28-30
- Stay on this Path ...
- Teach them to hear and distinguish God’s voice from other voices
- 1 Sam 3:7 “Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him”.
- Eli taught Samuel to listen to God

David to Solomon

- Proverbs 4:3-7 *When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. (NIV)*

Solomon Applied it

- IKing 3:9 "So give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?" (NAS)

5. Professional Christians

- Ever learning but never able to teach others. Hebrews 5:12
- Struggling with elementary truths of God’s word. Hebrews 6:1,2
- Remain immature because they do not practice what they learn. Hebrews 5:14

Be Deliberate & Intentional

- Give them opportunities to teach others
- Let them make mistakes – just like you made mistakes
- No parent rebukes his toddler when he falls as he tries to walk!

Be Very Intentional

- Give them opportunities...
- Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of PRACTICE have their senses TRAINED to discern good and evil.
- We learn best by repeated exposure to & practice of the truth.

Discussion Question 2

- What makes it so hard for us to let go of those we are raising so they can start to have an impact in the lives of others?
- Why do many prefer to keep learning and not passing on what they have learnt?

6. The Likes of Martha - Serve God without spending time with Him

- Luke 10:38-42
- Distracted by the work of service
- Martha reacted strongly
- Blame the Lord – “Lord, do you not care...”
- Blame others “...my sister has left me to do all the serving alone”

- Command the Lord "...then tell her to help me."
- Problems get out of hand when we do more than is necessary

Walk with the Lord – then Serve!

- Micah 6:8 "... And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (NIV)
- Col 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, {so} walk in Him, having been firmly rooted {and now} being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, {and} overflowing with gratitude. (NAS)

What became of Martha's Food?

When we serve the Lord without spending time with him, we are doing NOTHING.

- "...apart from me you can do nothing..." John 15:5
- Nothing is not the absence of something but anything done without the Lord.

Discussion Question 3

- How many of the activities you are involved in as you raise the next generation can be described by the Lord as "Nothing"?

7. **The Likes of Apollos**

- He was eloquent and learned and taught the word of God accurately – though he was only familiar with John's Baptism
- Was taken aside by Priscilla and Aquilla who explained the Word of God more Adequately Acts 18:24-26

Never Stop Learning

- Feed your disciples from a flowing stream not a stagnant pool!
- Expose your disciples to others – no one has all the gifts except the Lord.
- Expose yourself to others do not be ingrown.

8. **Timothy & Titus**

They Love God and People

- *"I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ".* Philippians 2:20,21
- *"I thank God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you".* 2 Corinthians 8:16
- Build this in their lives
- Matt 22:37-40
- *And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. 'This is the great and foremost commandment. 'The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*
- *"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (NAS)*

What do we want to see in the Church?

Four Kinds of People

- Non believers coming to Christ on a regular basis
- Growing Disciples of Christ
- Laborers or workers
- Leaders

This will not just happen!

- Christ Commanded us to **make** disciples. Matt 28:18-20
- Disciples are not born. They are not appointed. They do not volunteer. They are **MADE**
- **The Church is a wonderful place to make disciples!**

Growing Disciple of Christ (Leroy Eims – Lost Art of Disciple Making)

- Puts Christ first in major areas of life and is taking steps to separate from sin (Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1-2)
- Continues in God's word and applies it to his life with the help of the Holy Spirit (John 8:31, James 1:22-25)
- Maintains consistent devotional life and is growing in faith and intercessory prayer (Col 4:24, Heb 11:6)
- Attends Church regularly and shows Christ's love by serving others (Heb 10:25; John 13:34,35; 1John 4:20,21)
- Openly identifies with Christ at work, home; witnesses, gives testimony (Matt 5:16; Col 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15)
- He is a learner who is open and teachable (Acts 17:11)
- He is a visible follower and learner of Jesus Christ and demonstrates consistency and faithfulness in all the above areas (Luke 16:10)

Do you have men like these?

- How many of the men in your ministry would you describe to be Growing Disciples?
- What further input do they need?

Profile of a Laborer/Worker (Leroy Eims – Lost Art of Disciple Making)

- He shows evidence of growth in the values and virtues outlined earlier under "Growing Disciple" – 1 Peter 3:13
- Shows growing compassion for the lost and demonstrates ability to lead others to Christ personally (Matt 9:36-38; Rom 1:16)
- Is being used by God to establish believers who have become disciples, either personally or in a discipling group context (Col. 1:28,29)
- Is currently engaged in the task of making disciples (Matt. 28:19,20)
- Has regular intake of God's word by all means and the Q. time is a regular life habit (Phil. 4:9)

Profile of a Leader (Leroy Eims – Lost Art of Disciple Making)

- He is an equipped worker and demonstrates growth and virtues under "worker"
- Has been used by God to help disciples become workers (2 Tim. 2:2)
- He displays faithfulness and integrity in his life and ministry (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

Modeling is the Key

- David – 1 Chronicles 3:1-3
- Now these were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: the first-born {was} Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second {was} Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelitess; the third {was} Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; the fourth {was} Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth {was} Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth {was} Ithream, by his wife Eglah.

Solomon wanted to be like Daddy

- David did not teach Solomon how to have many wives. He modeled it.
- 1 King 11:3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. (NIV)

Eli was Samuel's father figure

- 1 Sam 2:12, 17
- 12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD
- 17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD. (NAS)

When God went mute

- 1 Sam 3:1 "...and word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent". (NAS)
- God is displeased when His WORD is not passed onto the next generation. Samuel's children similar to Eli's
- 1 Sam 8:3 His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice. (NAS)

Was Samuel too busy?

- 1 Sam 7:15-17 Now Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And he used to go annually on circuit to Bethel and Gilgal and Mizpah, and he judged Israel in all these places. -Then his return {was} to Ramah, for his house {was} there, and there he judged Israel; and he built there an altar to the LORD. (NAS)

Joshua hang around Moses

- Exodus 33:11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

No one hang around Joshua

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes. (NAS)

Raising The Next Generation

A Quick Study of Acts.

Luke 10:2 And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the **laborers** are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out **laborers** into His harvest. NASU.

- *The Lord is here asking the believers to pray for more laborers – not just more converts.*
- *Where do you suppose these laborers were going to come from?*
- *The Lord recognized that laborers (not new converts) were the type of people needed in the harvest field.*

Acts 11:25-26 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 15:36

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." NIV

- *Paul was not just satisfied by the fact that they had converts wherever they went*
- *He was interested to know how they were doing*
- *He was interested in the personal lives and welfare of the people he taught.*
- *Discipleship is passing on life-on-life.*

Acts 16:1

He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. NIV

- *Paul meets Timothy when he was already a believer but spends time with him raising him.*
- *Timothy becomes Paul's travel companion and **he leaves him in Berea with Silas in Acts 17:15.***

2 Cor 1:19

19For the Son of God, **Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy**, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." NIV

- *Paul preaches with Silas and Timothy. We see Paul practicing the **with-him principle**. We see him raising Timothy and Silas spiritually by letting them work alongside him*
- *Later we see Paul & Silas writing to the Thessalonians in 1 Thess 1:1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you .NIV*

Acts 18:9-11 – In Corinth

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

10For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." 11So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. NIV

- *Discipleship takes time. Can be anything from One year to 3 years. See references below*
- *What do you suppose Paul was teaching for a year and a half?.*
- *Do you suppose these people were deaf of hearing or did Paul have so much to teach them?*

Acts 18:8,17

Some of those who came to Christ were Crispus & Sosthenes synagogue leaders. Acts 18:7-8

8Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. 18:17 Then they all turned on Sosthenes the synagogue ruler and beat him in front of the court. But Gallio showed no concern whatever. NIV

Paul & Sosthenes later write to the Corinthian Church. **Another with-him principle.** (1 Cor 1:1 1:1Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes ...)

Acts 18:19-23

19They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. 20When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. 21But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. 22When he landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch. 23After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

- *Paul left new grounds to go back to places he had preached formerly to strengthen the disciples.*
- *He left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus – I suppose to strengthen the brethren.*
- *Priscilla and Aquila spent time with Apollos in their home, explaining to him the way of God more adequately. 18:26. Notice that Apollos had been described as learned with a thorough knowledge of the scriptures.*
- *Apollos knowledge of scripture was accurate but inadequate.*

Acts 19:8-10

- *Here, Paul returns to Ephesus. Time was now ripe to go back.*

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

- *Paul spent lots of time with those who were willing to learn but did not waste time with those who refused to learn. He left them alone.*
- *As a disciple maker, one needs to focus one's efforts where it matters the most. You need to help those who will help you with the rest.*

Acts 19:21-22

21After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also." **22He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus,** to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer. NIV

- *We see Paul taking time to go back to Macedonia and Achaia.*
- *We also see Timothy and Erastus being referred to as helpers. Paul had spent time with Timothy in Asia for 2 years and Timothy was ready to be sent out to raise others.*
- *Paul had effectively doubled his capacity by spending time with Timothy, or tripled it by spending time with both Timothy and Erastus.*
- *Again, you need to spend, lots of time with those who will help you with the rest of the work.*

Acts 20:4

He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from **Berea**, Aristarchus and Secundus from **Thessalonica**, Gaius from **Derbe**, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of **Asia** NIV

- *Notice here that Paul had raised leaders in Berea, Thessalonica, Derbe and Asia.*
- *These are the people who would become the pillars of the churches in those places.*

Acts 20:17

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

Acts 20:31

So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. NIV

- *Paul spent 3 years with the Ephesians and he reminded the elders of this fact.*

In Rome:

Acts 28:30-31

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

Phil 2:19-22

Paul has confidence in Timothy

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. **20I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.** For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **22**But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. NIV

Paul commissions Timothy – note similarities of this commission with the great commission!

2 Tim 2:1-2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2**And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

- *Paul taught Timothy in the context of other believers and expected Timothy to entrust what he had learnt from him to others.*

Paul has confidence in Timothy

Who wrote the different Epistles?

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and **Timothy** our brother, NIV

Phil 1:1 Paul and **Timothy**, servants of Christ Jesus, NIV

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and **Timothy** our brother,

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, **Silas and Timothy**, NIV

Philemon - Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and **Timothy** our brother, NIV