

Discipleship Part 3: The Lost Art of Disciplemaking

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I. Review of Parts 1 and 2.

- A. We looked at what a disciple looks like.
- B. We looked at who a disciple is: the kind of person who imparts knowledge to others.

II. How a disciple teaches others.

- A. You cannot be a discipler of someone else until you have been disciplined.
- B. Moses was faithful to Jethro before he leads.
- C. Joshua was faithful to Moses.
- D. Jesus was faithful to his Joseph.

III. How do you disciple someone?

- A. Touching lives is what discipleship is about.
 - 1. If you help someone think correctly about God you have touched someone.
 - 2. If you touch someone, his or her reality will change for the better.
 - 3. Discipleship is a lost art.
 - 4. Many Christians never even try to disciple anyone.
- B. There are ten absolutes in discipleship.
 - 1. Getting the right person to teach is crucial.
 - a. Teach humble people, who know they need to know something.
 - b. Stubborn people resist discipleship.
 - c. Self-sufficient people cannot be disciplined.
 - d. Disciple those who pursue you.
 - 2. Be sensitive to where they are at the moment.
 - a. People have reasons why they request discipleship.
 - b. Life struggles often lead people to look for help, and though you may be teaching about doctrine they really need healing.
 - c. Do not agreed to disciple anyone in an open-ended relationship, but agree to a short-term commitment to teach and see if they are ready to continue.

- d. Look for those who want more than a short-term commitment.
3. Raise the bar.
- a. After six weeks challenge them to become active in church and to keep a Bible reading journal every day.
 - b. If they take the new challenge then increase the commitment to six months to a year.
 - c. Next, get them involved in discipling another.
 - d. Raising the bar in this way takes a person from a novice to a discipler of others.
4. Spend time with those you are discipling.
- a. Relation and revelation go together.
 - b. Jesus chose 12 to be with him.
 - c. Paul was with his elders.
 - d. Spending with people makes us vulnerable; we must be what we are teaching.
5. Teach for life change.
- a. Jesus said teach them to obey (Matthew 28:20)
 - b. Church involvement and giving and confessing sin are foundational to true Christianity.
 - c. Teach about relationships and relation to authority.
 - d. Teach morality and goals and practical issues of life, dating with women, and pornography with men.
6. Teach unto the ideal of a future leader.
- a. Jesus called his disciples saying follow me and I will make you fishers of men, though it took years to accomplish this.
 - b. Discipleship is not an intellectual pursuit but life change.
7. You want to be able to stretch them so that their mouth gets dry and their palms get sweaty so that they will cry out to God.
- a. Moses and Joshua were stretched beyond their abilities.
 - b. Is there anything in your life that makes you need the help of God?
8. Expose them to the faithful believers.

- a. You are not the only one obeying God.
- b. Introduce your disciple and introduce him to other men and women who are obeying God.

9. Involve them in the body of Christ.

a. Americans tend to be lone wolves, living on their ingenuity, especially the younger generation who never experienced the depression and WWII that created dependence.

b. The younger generation is free spirited and resists interdependence. To them the individual is more important than the group.

c. Alan Bloom, author of *The Closing of the American Mind* said that American Christianity is American Gnosticism.

1. Individuals have non-qualifiable identities that are not measured by anyone else.

2. This is an insightful remark that is really anti-Christian.

3. Christians are dependent on one another and our lives are measured by the Word of God.

4. The term "one another" is used 14 times in the New Testament.

10. Find a curriculum to use.

a. The Navigators have a tried and true curriculum, as does Campus Crusade and others.

b. We do not need to reinvent the wheel to teach others.

IV. We as churches need to take people from learners to a discipler to a leader.

A. In groups you are observable and can prove yourself faithful.

B. We can take the observable people and promote them to higher levels of leadership.

C. We want you to become significant by getting involved in the work of the ministry with people.

D. Probably 90% of Christians do not relate to true discipleship and that is sad.

E. These people are on the periphery of the church, declining involvement.

F. We cannot affect people who remain on the periphery, but others will get involved in small groups to learn and begin teaching others.

G. These people we want to work with.

H. We are all going to appear before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for our lives so let us become disciplers.