

“THE PERSONAL DIMENSION IN DISCIPLESHIP”

Mark 4:21-25

I've been working my butt off on a new SS series on tithing. PM said, "It's lots of hard work – and that's why many men don't do their own series/some don't have SS or night services... Dawned on me the personal dimension involved in discipleship.

I. YOU LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU WANT

A. Bible schools are set schedules of instruction

1. You will be taught a certain subject at a certain time: Uniform!
a. But people are not uniform!
2. Some people blossom/grow/develop – and others stay the same – and others decline
a. Q: What is the difference?

B. Life is determined by hunger – by our desires: *God asking Solomon this at the beginning of his ministry*

1. Whatever you are hungry for will dominate your life – determine your future
a. Jesus asked : What do you want? (blind man) Do you want to be made whole? (Bethesda)
1. Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

C. Important element of wisdom: Personal initiative

1. The heart of the learner dramatically changes what is learned
a. Judas vs. John! b. People leave church/not fed/pastor no good; Disciple develops/used of God!
2. What you get out of discipleship is in many ways up to you
a. We'd like to blame genetics/luck/favoritism...but often a man who wants it more than others – hungry!
1. Exodus 33:11 Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.

II. YOU LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU ASK

A. Mistake concerning discipleship is that it is a master-plan of teaching

1. A set course of instruction – at a certain time
a. The Pastor says in June I will teach the Trinity.... b. If I am here for X # of years – I will be sent out

B. Much of discipleship is a response

1. Not just Jesus working through a curriculum – but teaching in response to questions
a. Mark 4:10 they asked about the parable...Mark 9:11 why do they say Elijah must come first? Mark 9:28 why couldn't we cast the demon out? John 9:2 who sinned...? Luke 9:55 do you want us to call down fire & kill them all?
2. Each question sparked a time of instruction that flowed out of the question

C. We need to see the power of questions

1. We learn the most when we ask questions: *We are engaging our minds*
2. It helps the discipler to see where the person is at/what they are thinking
a. Now I see what they need/what they lack/what they grasp/where we can go from here
3. It helps others to learn
a. Either your question encourages others to ask their own questions
b. Or others learn when your question is being answered

D. Lack of questions will mean lack of understanding and growth

1. *Q: Why would men not ask questions?*
a. Pride: They don't want to look bad b. Insecurity: They are afraid of being rejected – being a bother
2. Asking questions is a discipline
a. Thinking through issues – why/why not/how/when? b. Write things down

III. YOU LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU DO

A. The final dimension in discipleship is action

1. Hearing or learning is directly connected to action – what we do with what we hear!
a. Mark 4:21 he said... Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?
1. Light is to be used 2. Use determines supply
2. We must act on what God shows us
a. James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

B. This is a self-limiting factor

1. **God will never give us more than we obey**
a. Mark 4:25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.
2. **As we do what God says – it releases more**
a. Mark 4:25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.
1. Sermons/teaching 2. Personal instruction 3. Promptings of the Holy Spirit