

“TRUE DISCIPLESHIP”

Common questions asked: Men come and say – I want to be a disciple. How do I become a disciple? Story of feeding the multitudes: This is a discipleship training lesson – true discipleship.

I. OUR VIEW OF PEOPLE

A. Effective discipleship/ministry centers on people

1. Seminary: Book learning/knowledge divorced from people

a. Men who know things – but are completely ineffective at reaching/connecting/retaining people

B. Discipleship begins in the heart – involves how we view people

1. *Matt 14:14 Jesus saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

a. Feel sympathy. Literally: His insides hurt for them

1. Jesus cared more for others – than himself!

2. Our problem is that we don't see people like Jesus does! We don't care like he cares

a. *V15 send them away... not about the people – it was about the disciples*

1. *People will inconvenience me/ask things of me*

C. We can't be effective unless God can help us to care for people

1. This is the mark of effective ministers/workers with people

a. *Moses cared whether people were destroyed b. Paul: I wish I could be accursed for the Jews*

c. *Epaphroditus: Longed for you/worried about you*

1. *2 Corinthians 8:16-17 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.* ¹⁷ *For*

he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.

2. This doesn't come natural: It is of the utmost importance for disciples/follow-up workers/pastors

a. *Pastor Mitchell: Pray that God will give you a burden for souls, and a love for people*

b. *Turning point in my life: I knew I didn't have – began to pray for/actively get involved in meeting needs*

II. WHETHER YOU SEE PEOPLE

A. Our scribe: Jesus was tuned in to people

1. He was looking/aware of where people were at – what they needed

a. Disciples who want to be shepherds – must be aware

1. *Luke 15:4 if he loses one, he leaves the 99 and searches...*

2. You can't help them if you aren't even aware they're missing/in trouble!

a. *TP: Dealing with concert director about follow-up; Why don't you know these things?*

3. Trying to get them to develop vision for need: Lift up your eyes...off yourself and onto others!

a. *Do you notice visitors come in? Do you notice when people are missing? Can you tell when people are hurting/going through something?*

2. He saw things from their perspective: How they felt

a. *Church is normal for us: We know these people/know what's going to happen: Don't even think of what it's like for others.*

b. *Wed service: Kid came in/was obviously nervous. Where do I sit? I WAS LOOKING FOR DISCIPLES!!*

III. MEETING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

A. Compassion/awareness will always have practical expressions

1. You give something to eat....you bring them here to me...

a. You have to do more than feel it – you have to get involved/do something

2. What things can you do to meet the needs of people?

a. *Wed night: I needed a disciple to help him find a seat/sit with them*

1. Discipleship: You will have to do this by yourself!

b. Follow up c. conversations: You will have to do this by yourself!

B. Wherever there is compassion/awareness and involvement God is able to trigger a supernatural dimension

1. *Matthew 14:20-21 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.* ²¹ *Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

a. Needs are met People survive People are added Multiplying power

1. *Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

a. Adding/multiplying disciples/people of influence impacted