

## **“TRUE DISCIPLESHIP”**

**Matt 14:13-21**

*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. <sup>17</sup> 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 scrip: 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. <sup>21</sup> 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