

The Biblical Pattern of Discipleship

REVIEW:

- GOD'S MISSION IS TO ESTABLISH A _____ - Isaiah 9:6-7
- GOD'S PLAN FOR FULFILLING HIS KINGDOM INVOLVES _____.
The implication: God mission is _____ throughout history.
- Discipleship is the practical process that leads to _____ to the image of Christ.
The implications:
A: Discipleship is a process that can be measured by _____ key indicators:
 1. To establish the believer in the _____ of God.
 2. To establish the believer in the _____ of God.
 3. To establish the believer in the _____ (fellowship and structure.)
 4. To establish the believer with us in _____.
- B: Discipleship is the Measure of Success in Churches
KEY: There are five primary _____ in Christian ministry.
 1. Evangelism.
 2. Establishment of local churches.
 3. **Preparing disciples.**
 4. Conforming our lives to be like Jesus Christ.
 5. Bringing glory to God

Discipleship forms the link between the first two (quantitative) goals and the last two (qualitative) goals. Goals which cannot be measured.

Last week...

- III. The **hindrances** to the ministry of discipleship and how to **guard** against them and **overcome** them.
- A. **Divisions** between the discipler and disciple.
Disciplers, don't "lord" over your disciples! Lay down you life loving them. **1 Thess 2:7-12**
- B. **Intellectual studies and debates.**
- Disciplers – disciples: Stick to the material. D1 lessons. **2 Timothy 2:2**
 - Don't let pride pull you out into the false winds of doctrine (Eph 4:11-16) **Proverbs 13:10**
- C. **Charismatic** distraction can be a great hindrance.
- There are many in the Charismatic Movement that are driven by emotions and experiences; less upon the absolute, complete and perfect word of God. **2 Peter 1:16-19**
- D. **Legalism**
- Definition: a system which establishes "rules" or "tradition" to measure spirituality.
Church leadership is NOT to be set above the Word of God.

E. Ceremony

- We aren't pursuing ritual – nor are we just to go thru the motions of our own view of "Christianity." We are to help every believer to meet, grow in and be in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

III. The _____ of following this biblical pattern of discipleship.

A. The _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Jesus selected a core of twelve men
- As they grew, Jesus selected 70 additional disciples, Luke 10:1
- Prior to Pentecost, the nucleus was 120 – Acts 1:15
- 3,000 were saved at Pentecost, Acts 2:41
- 5,000 men believed, Acts 4:4
- Christians accused of turning the world upside down within 25 years, Acts 17:6
- All Asia Minor heard the Word, Acts 19:10 (without TV, radio, brochures, cell phones, computers, cars, airlines)

B. The chart comparing evangelism (addition) to discipleship (multiplication).

If Jesus Christ had only evangelized.

Years	3	6	9	12	15
12 converts per 3 yrs	12	24	36	48	60
12 converts per day	13,140	26,280	39,420	52,560	65,700

Evangelism alone equals addition.

Jesus Christ disciplined and trained leaders.

Years	3	6	9	12	15
12 disciples trained to teach others	1 x 12 12	12 x 12 144	144 x 12 1,728	1,728 x 12 20,736	20,736 x 12 248,832

- Started with a core group of 12.
- As their number grew, he selected 70 more and used the 12 to help train the 70. This fueled even more growth in the 12.
- By Pentecost, the nucleus was 120 - Acts 1:15
- 3,000 were saved at Pentecost.
- Membership of 5000 men by Acts 4:4.
- Turned the world upside down - Acts 17:6 - within only 25 years!
- Acts 19:10 - All of Asia heard the Word - without TV, radio, telephones, airplanes, cars, or fax machines.

Evangelism plus discipleship = _____.

This is the Great Commission for the New Testament Church. Genesis 1:28

The problem with “multiplication” plan. 2 Tim 2:1-4

1. We have a Position of _____ . Vs 1

2. For the _____ . Vs 2

Problem: Where are the faithful men? **Pro 20:6; Ecc 7: 28; Ps 12:1**

KEY: What if it takes 10 attempts to find that faithful **one**? What if it takes a 1000 tries?

3. Which is _____ . Vs 3

Isn't it worth staying on task? What if 1 out of _____ flake out? Isn't that worth it?

1 Thes 2:19; 2 Thes 3:13; Gal 6:9

Isn't it worth ANYTHING to be able to point to someone and say to them “you are my crown of rejoicing!?”

Church leaders: YOU MUST count the cost of discipleship first.

4. So, we Must Stay _____ for It! Vs 4

Everything must fall out to the mission! Does it make disciples?

Does it allow me to take what God has entrusted to me and give it to faithful men?

C. The example of the _____ .

- He understood the process of discipling spiritual generations, 2 Tim.2:2
- Paul taught disciples in the Corinthian Church, Acts 18:11
- Paul had trained disciples at Ephesus, Acts 20:17-20
- Paul taught the disciples at Thessalonica, 1 Thes.2:4-11
- Paul disciplined Timothy during his 2nd missionary journey, Acts 16:1-4
- Paul disciplined Titus and worked with him in ministry, Tit.1:4-5
- Paul commissioned Timothy and Titus to ordain elders for the purpose of multiplying disciples, 1 Tim.3:1; Titus 1:5

D. The Great Commission can be _____ by any local church.

God has equipped us to do so, but the key is every Christian growing as a disciple and becoming involved in ministry.

- 1 Cor.12:12-27
- 2 Cor.5:18-20
- Eph.4:11-16

ILLUSTRATION: The plan for discipleship is seen as a training that Christ gave to His two groups of disciples – the twelve and the seventy

There are eleven areas of similarity in discipling of 12 and of 70.

1. He taught them the evil of prejudice.
 - a. With the twelve He healed the centurion's son. Matt. 8:5-13; Lk 7:1-10
 - b. With the seventy He taught them the parable of the Good Samaritan. Lk 10:25-37
2. He demonstrated the acceptance of women. Everywhere, Christianity has liberated women.
 - a. With the twelve, He received a sinful woman. Lk 7:36-50
 - b. With the seventy, He permitted Mary of Bethany to sit with the men to study. Lk 10:38-42
3. He taught the principles of truth and holy living.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 6
 - b. To the seventy, Luke 11:1-13
4. He taught them the conflict between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God as demonstrated by His power over demons
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 12:22-33; Mark 3:22-30; Lk 11:14-26
 - b. To the seventy, Luke 11:14-26
5. He taught against the religious hypocrisy (of the Pharisees)
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 12:33-45
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:1-2
6. He taught about the kingdom. Its growth and its condition until the second coming of Christ. He taught them dispensational truths.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 13
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:35-13:21
7. He taught them not to fear man. Necessary for any disciple to confront his culture
 - a. To the twelve, Mat 10:26-31
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:4-12
8. He taught them that he would cause division between men bringing not peace but a sword
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 10:34-36
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:49-53
9. He had conflict with the Pharisees concerning their tradition. He challenged tradition where it contradicted the Bible.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 15:1-20; 16:1-12
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 14:1-11; 15:1-32
10. He called them to sacrifice and deny self.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 16:13-28; Mk 8:27-9:1
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 14:25-35
11. He taught them the causes of sin and the need to restore the sinner. Discipleship comes full-circle and leads right back to evangelism. This is the only proper motive for soul winning. Discipleship is on 2 levels: knowledge and life; instruction and practice. The first level is teaching; the second is experience. The first level is learning; the second is being.
 - a. To the twelve, Mat 18:21-35
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 17:1-10