

## LESSON 3 - Discipleship in the Ministry of Christ

### I. Initial Observations

- A. Jesus was far sighted
  - 1. (Acts 1:8) Jesus wanted the Gospel to go to the ends of the earth
  - 2. Instead of Mass Evangelism, Jesus focused on a few
- B. Jesus had three years, so he focused on what was important
  - 1. Did not spend all his time in public preaching trying to reach as many as possible
  - 2. Did not spend his entire time healing
  - 3. Spent the bulk of his time, especially in his later ministry, focusing on the discipling of the twelve.
- C. Jesus had a distinct readiness goal in mind:  
The disciples would become Apostles and take responsibility for being disciples and reproducing self-initiating, reproducing followers.

### II. Stages of Discipleship

- A. First Stage: Observer and Imitator
  - 1. Role of the discipler: The living example
    - a. "I do, you watch"
    - b. Brings the disciple alongside to observe and imitate
  - 2. Role of the disciple: Observer and imitator
    - a. First chapters in Mark shows the disciples following, but little substantive interaction
    - b. "Who is this that the wind and sea obey?"
    - c. They are figuring out who Jesus is & what he is about
  - 3. Readiness Level: Ready to observe who Jesus is and the nature of his ministry and mission
  - 4. Questions exploring: Who is Jesus, particularly his ministry and mission?
- B. Second Stage: Student and Questioner
  - 1. Role of the discipler: Provocative teacher
    - a. "I do, you help"
    - b. As the disciples observe and imitate, he takes them aside from the crowd to teach them
      - 1) Example in Mark 4
        - a) (Mk 4:1f) - Parable of the Soils to the crowd
        - b) (Mk 4:10f) - Teaching disciples privately

- 2) Example in Mark 7
    - a) (Mk 7:14-16) - Jesus teaches the crowd
    - b) (Mk 7:17f) - Jesus teaches his disciples
  - 3) Example in Mark 10
    - a) (Mk 10:17f) - Jesus teaches the Rich Young Ruler
    - b) (Mk 10:23) - Jesus teaches his disciples
  - 4) Jesus used teachable moments
    - (Mk 12:41f) - Poor widows two coins
  - c. Jesus challenged their assumptions
    - 1) (Mk 10:24-26) - Easier for Camel in eye of needle
    - 2) (Mk 9:33f) - On greatness
  - d. Jesus asked questions
    - 1) (Mk 8:27f) - Peter's Confession
    - 2) (Mk 11:29) - Question to counter Pharisees
  - 2. Role of the disciple: Student and Questioner
    - a. Jesus' teaching and activity provoke the disciples to ask questions and learn
    - b. Jesus also asked questions of them as well
  - 3. Readiness level: Ready to interact with Jesus and publicly identify with him
  - 4. Questions: What is the cost of following Jesus?
- C. Stage Three: Short Term Missionaries
- 1. Role of the Disciple: Supportive Coach
    - a. "You do, I help"
    - b. (Lk 9:1-9) - Jesus gave the 12 authority
      - 1) They went out and preached
      - 2) Returned to Jesus
    - c. (Lk 10:1-17) - Detailed instructions for the 70
      - 1) Jesus gave clear instructions
      - 2) Jesus delegated authority clearly
      - 3) Jesus laid out clear expectations
        - a) Sheep in the midst of wolves
        - b) Do not worry, the Spirit will help
      - 4) They returned, Jesus debriefed them
  - 2. Role of the Disciple: Short Term Missionary
    - a. Jesus sent the disciples out short term
    - b. Benefits of short term mission
      - 1) Gain confidence in the authority of Christ
      - 2) Grew in competence
      - 3) Faced their shortcomings (Mk 9:14-29 - Could not cast out a demon)
  - 3. Readiness level: Ready to accept delegation and minister
  - 4. Questions: Will I have the faith, and will the power of Christ work through me as I take on this ministry?

## D. Stage Four: Sent Disciple (Apostle)

1. Role of the Discipler: Ultimate Delegator
  - a. "You do, I watch"
  - b. (Jn 17) - Jesus is turning the ministry over to them
2. Role of the Disciple: "Apostle" or in our case, "Sent Disciple"
  - a. "Apostle" means "one commissioned" or "one sent"
  - b. Specialized meaning related to the twelve
    - 1) There were the apostles commissioned directly by Christ, the twelve
    - 2) These had a special commission from Christ
  - c. Used in a generic way of anyone with a commission
    - 1) (Heb 3:1) - Jesus the "Apostle," commissioned by God to be our High Priest
    - 2) Paul also became an Apostle of Christ when Christ appeared to him
    - 3) (Acts 14:14) - Barnabas was an "Apostle"
      - a) Not in the sense of the twelve
      - b) He was an Apostle of the church, commissioned by the church (Acts 13:3)
    - 4) (Rom 16:7) - Andronicus and Junias were Apostles, probably in the sense Barnabas was
    - 5) The idea of "apostolic" ministry is that each disciple is "sent," each disciple has a function, a ministry to be commended to
  - d. (Mt 29:18-19) Reproduce
3. Readiness Level: Ready to assume full responsibility for making reproducing disciples
4. Will I give my life entirely to the mission of making reproducing disciples?

	<b>Pre-Disciple</b>	<b>Stage 1</b> "I do, you watch"	<b>Stage 2</b> "I do, you help"	<b>Stage 3</b> "You do, I help"	<b>Stage 4</b> "You do, I watch"
<b>Jesus' Role</b>	Inviter	Living Example	Provocative Teacher	Supportive Coach	Delegator
<b>Disciple's Role</b>	Seekers	Observe & Imitate	Student and Questioner	Short-Term Missionaries	Apostles (Commissioned)
<b>Readiness Level</b>	Hungry to know if Jesus is the Messiah	Ready to observe who Jesus is and the nature of his ministry and mission	Ready to interact with Jesus and publicly identify with him	Readiness to accept delegation and minister	Ready to assume full responsibility for making reproducing disciples
<b>Key Questions</b>	Is Jesus the Messiah?	Who is Jesus, particularly his ministry and mission?	What is the cost of following Jesus?	Will I have the faith, and will the power of Christ work in me?	Will I give my life entirely to the mission of making reproducing disciples?

### III. Where do Disciples Come from?

- A. (Jn 4:28-30, 39-42) - Samaritan Woman
  - 1. She was promiscuous
  - 2. Yet she was the one who brought Samaritans to Christ
- B. (Jn 9:1-38) - The Blind Man
  - 1. Progression
    - a. v.11 - The man called Jesus
    - b. v.17 - Believed Jesus to be a prophet
    - c. v.28 - They called him Jesus' disciple
    - d. v.33 - This man is from God
  - 2. Observations
    - a. This was a poor beggar who was blind but now sees
    - b. Did not have the "theological" training of Pharisees
    - c. Pharisees could not cope with his simple, powerful faith
- C. (Mt 9:9-13) - Jesus calls Matthew
  - 1. Matthew was a tax collector
    - a. Matthew invited his friends to Jesus at his house
    - b. Imagine the scene!
  - 2. (Mt 9:36-38) - Jesus told disciples to pray for workers of harvest
    - a. Matthew is now a part of this group
    - b. What would be the answer to the prayer?
  - 3. (Mt 10:1-5) - Jesus sends Matthew out along with the others!
  - 4. In less than a chapter Matthew goes from tax collector and sinner to short-term missionary!
- D. Observations
  - 1. Look at who God uses!
  - 2. It is often the most destitute and broken that can be the strongest witnesses of God's power
  - 3. New Christians, even if they had a rough life, are often the best evangelists even over the most educated Bible scholar or theologian.
  - 4. The process of multiplying discipleship begins IMMEDIATELY
    - a. We need to trust in the power of God
    - b. It is not about our methods, rational arguments, personalities, beautiful buildings, great programs, etc., but about the simple testimony of a transformed life!
- E. Workers for the Harvest come from the Harvest!
  - 1. Don't worry about difficulties so much that it prevents you from empowering disciples
  - 2. Jesus sent his disciples out as sheep in the midst of wolves
  - 3. A challenged faith is a stronger faith