

Fishers of Men: Lessons on Discipleship  
Lesson 2 “The Real Mission of the Church”

I. Introduction - Last week we began a series on discipleship called “Fishers of Men.” Jesus was the ultimate fisher of men and His goal was to turn His disciples and by extension all of us into fishers of men. He wanted to replicate Himself in us, which is how He would fill the earth with His glory.

II. Today I want to talk to you about how *the Real Mission of the Church* is to make disciples (devoted followers) of all nations. **Matthew 28:19.**

A. Why is this important?

1. If a person evangelized 1,000 people per year for fifteen years, there would be 15,000 new believers. If that same person led 1 person to the Lord and disciplined them every six months so they could reproduce themselves, after one year, there would be 4 disciples. After 17 years, however, if each continued to reproduce themselves everyone on the planet would be saved. **Law of Multiplication!**
2. My personal story of how I was disciplined at 17 and 21.

B. This is a paradigm shift for many because in the modern church we have turned our services into evangelistic efforts where we see people come to Christ, but then leave many of those people in immaturity.

1. This is comparable to a man who gets a woman pregnant, but either doesn't stick around to raise the child or isn't an involved parent. This leads to problems.
2. Billy Graham said he would have been happy if 5% of the people who made professions of faith at his crusades were truly saved. Many never joined a church and began to grow in so it's hard to know what really happened to many of them.
3. **Malachi 4:5-6** God's will is for the hearts of fathers and sons to be turned toward one another. This is true both naturally and spiritually. **God's heart has always been for spiritual fathers to invest in the lives of the less mature.**
  - a. **Genesis 18:19** The reason God chose Abraham.
  - b. One of the most troubling books of the Bible is *Judges* because God would raise up deliverers for Israel, however once they were rescued from captivity they never took the truths of the word of God and disciplined the next generation so the nation wound up back in captivity.

C. Why am I telling you all of this? I want to communicate God's heart to you!

1. If you classify yourself as a baby Christian, connect to a mature one who can help you grow. Discipleship is the key to your personal freedom (**John 8:31-32**).

2. If you would classify yourself as mature, pour your life into someone (s) who are not. This is part of what you were born for. This will change the world.
3. This is why we strongly encourage everyone who considers Grace Life their home church to join a team and get involved serving. You will grow more by hearing the word and serving than just by hearing the word. I promise you!
4. We'd also encourage you to get involved in a Life Group. Discipleship is about relationships. You can't disciple or be discipled if you aren't connected.

D. The first thing Jesus did when He started His ministry was build a team of people He could pour His life into.

1. **Matthew 4:17-22** Jesus did just enough preaching to attract get a few folks attention so he could invite them to follow Him.
2. As I study through the gospels it becomes clear that Jesus spent the majority of his time with the 12 not the crowds. **Mark 3:7-15.**
  - a. He appointed them that they might be with him - **most important!** He was replicating His wisdom and character.
  - b. He also gave them power/authority. He replicated power and authority.
3. Jesus didn't withdraw from the crowds because He didn't love people. He withdrew and invested in the 12 because He knew that was the key for His ministry live on after He was gone. **Success without a successor is ultimately failure.**

E. The Apostle Paul had multiple disciples/spiritual sons including Titus and Timothy.

1. **Titus 1:4** - Titus was the trouble shooter Paul sent to Crete to straighten it out because the whole island was a mess. Part of his instructions to Titus was to raise up elders/deacons in the home churches and impart things to them so they could help him straighten out the island. Titus was called to replicate himself.
2. Investing in the lives of others (Paul in Titus) helps them fulfill their destiny and helps us fulfill ours (Paul didn't have to stay in Crete and was freed up to go new places the gospel hadn't been peached.)

III. Conclusion - In the upcoming weeks we are going to get more into the nitty-gritty about how to pick a disciple/mentor, how mentor/be mentored, how to stretch people outside their comfort zone, how to pray for disciples, and pitfalls of the disciple/mentor relationship. Today was about giving you my heart and helping you all see how important this is.

A. As I close, I'd encourage everyone to get involved and let us invest in you and invest in someone else.

B. Pray Closing Prayer and Call Up Prayer Team