

Fishers of Men: Lessons on Discipleship  
Lesson 4 “Training the Disciples”

I. Review and Introduction

A. Introduction - Jesus was the ultimate fisher of men. His goal was to replicate Himself in disciples and by extension each of us so He could fill the earth with His glory.

1. We have looked at how the real mission of the is replication not just leading people to salvation. **Matthew 28:19** says to make disciples (devoted learners and followers).
2. Jesus began His ministry by selecting a small group of followers who He poured His life into. He wanted to replicate Himself in them (by teaching, training, opportunities for experience) so when He ascended the church would outlast His time on the planet. Spent more time with the 12 than the crowds to ensure His ministry would continue past His life on earth.

B. Today we are going to talk about how He trained the disciples.

1. My Fred Price story about **Proverbs 22:6**. There is a difference between teaching your children how to make the bed versus training them how to do it.
2. Teaching is more theoretical and abstract, while training is more hands-on and practical. **Jesus made the theoretical practical and made the theological experiential.**

II. Training the Disciples

A. Last week we left off in **Luke 6** with the calling of the apostles. After Jesus got to the know the disciples over several months, He prayed and God showed Him who He was to call to Himself to invest in for the rest of His life.

B. Before we look in **Luke 9** where He sent them out to preach the gospel and heal the sick, let's look at what He did prior to that.

1. Jesus taught His disciples.
  - a. **Matthew 4:23**
  - b. **Matthew 7:28**
  - c. **Matthew 9:35**
2. All learning begins with proper instruction. It just can't stop with proper instruction. At some point the teacher has to give their pupil the opportunity to apply the concepts they have been learning.
  - a. **Luke 9:1-6** After about a year or so of listening to Jesus teach and watching him work, Jesus sent out the 12 in pairs. This is the equivalent

of a pre-med student doing clinicals. **If we are training someone, we have to give them an opportunity to fail in a controlled environment. The best learning is applied learning. It's when we find out what we don't know.** This crusade went well and the disciples didn't have any failures. Those were coming and this is where Jesus gave feedback.

b. **Feedback** - Enables constant improvement by providing instruction to students and identifying knowledge gaps and fixing issues.

3. Examples in *Luke 9* of Jesus providing feedback.

a. ***Luke 9:10-17 Multiplying the loaves and fishes*** - Jesus got the disciples involved and gave feedback on their limited view of God's provision.

b. ***Luke 9:18-20*** Jesus gives feedback to Peter after Peter rebukes him for saying He will go to the cross. Says "get thee behind me Satan."

c. ***Luke 9:37-42 Jesus gives feedback after the disciples fail to heal the epileptic boy. Luke 9:41 - Faithless and perverse generation.*** In *Matthew* and *Mark's* accounts we learn they had a type of unbelief that kept them from receiving their answer to prayer and that the only way this unbelief comes out is through prayer and fasting.

d. ***Luke 9:46-48*** The disciples argue about who is the greatest. Jesus gives feedback. He doesn't correct them for wanting to be great. He redefines greatness from a kingdom perspective. **Matthew 18:4**

e. ***Luke 9:48-51 - Luke 9:49*** Jesus gives feedback to John's statement about sectarianism or demonolatry.

f. ***Luke 9:51-56 Jesus gives feedback about legalism.*** The disciples wanted to call down fire on the Samaritans because they didn't receive Jesus. Jesus then tells them, "***You don't know what spirit you are of? Luke 9:55-56.***

C. After all those events, most of us would think these guys need a lot more work and I don't need any more people to train for a while. Jesus had a different perspective. **Luke 10:1** Jesus sent out 70 others also.

1. Jesus saw that getting people involved brought issues to the surface He could deal with. Those issues were always there in these people's lives, but were hidden until they were put in situations that would bring them to the surface.

2. Jesus's goal for all of us is to conform us to His image. This means a large part of His dealings with us are corrective. This is why it's important we have a proper view of Him and know He is radically in love with us.

a. As much as He wants us to do great works for Him, we must remember He called us to Himself because He radically loves us.

b. If we have this view, we won't feel condemned when He corrects our actions. He detests some of our actions, but He loves us. ex: children example.

### III. Conclusion

#### A. Takeaways

1. We must be in relationship in godly relationships to trained in the things of God. Jesus will not be your primary trainer because the Great Commission says for disciples to make disciples.
2. Leaders must instruct their followers in the things of God.
3. Leaders must give opportunities to apply what they teach. This gives opportunities for success/failure where they can provide constructive feedback to help their disciple grow.
4. Leaders must be honest. You can't disciple someone if you lie to them and say what they are doing is good when it is not. With that said, we always affirm people in their identity in Christ even when we critique their actions.
5. In order to be discipled, we have to get rooted in our identity in Christ. Leaders will have to give us feedback that isn't always pleasant and when this happens we need to remember who we are is not what we do.

#### B. Call Up Prayer Team

#### C. Pray Closing Prayer