



THE POWER OF MAKING DISCIPLES

My Journey With Jesus

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL WEEK 6

Acts 18:24-19:20

As we consider our own journeys with Jesus, it grows our desire to make disciples. When you ask yourself the 3 questions from the sermon this week, do you feel a sense of urgency and eagerness to make disciples like we see Paul doing in this passage?

- 1. Do I understand the importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus ...and the grace I continue to receive because of this?
2. Do I understand the influence of the indwelling Holy Spirit ...and the power I have because of this?
3. Do I understand the impact of complete surrender to God ...and my need for continual confession?

So far, we have addressed the why, the who, and the what of discipleship. For the next two weeks, we will focus on HOW TO MAKE A DISCIPLE! As Jesus made disciples, he taught them not to focus only on today or tomorrow, but to have an eternal perspective. Disciple-making is the accelerant needed to build the church and His kingdom. As a body of believers, we strive to devote ourselves to building each other up, knowing that "the Day is drawing near,"—which is referring to eternity (Read Hebrews 10:24-25). Therefore, we commit to doing the hard work of discipleship hoping that we may see some spiritual fruit now, but ultimately having the goal of presenting people mature in Christ then (Read Colossians 1:28). It is easy to become focused on the here and now, without giving much thought to matters considering eternity. What do you do to keep your perspective focused on eternity?

How to make a disciple—(Steps 1 and 2 this week)

Step 1: Cast a Compelling Vision With the Person you are Discipling

Have you ever heard the saying that "vision leaks?" There is nothing more frustrating than the feeling of "this is pointless," or having doubts such as "why are we doing this again?" Therefore, it is important to restate the "why" and the end goal of the discipleship relationship at the beginning and continue to do so frequently over the next 6 to 12 months. How would you state a compelling vision to the person you are discipling? Don't forget to incorporate the Word!

Three horizontal lines for writing a compelling vision.

Step 2: Collaborate on Expectations of the Discipleship Relationship

Jesus modeled this well in Luke 14:25-35. He knew that these people believed and accepted His message in principle but maybe not in their heart. As a result, His popularity grew and people started to follow Him everywhere. When Jesus laid out the tests and requirements of discipleship He sought to weed out those who were following Him for the wrong reasons, such as those who wanted to be dazzled by Jesus' miracles, or others who came looking for a free meal. So Jesus turned to the multitude and preached a sermon that would deliberately thin-out the crowd, to discern those who were truly committed to be His disciples. Jesus made it clear that when it comes to personal discipleship, He is more interested in quality than quantity. Take some time as a small group to write down some realistic and helpful expectations and think about how to implement them in your discipleship relationship.

Three horizontal lines for writing expectations for the discipleship relationship.