

Discipleship I CL Talks Episode 20 - 24

Pastor Al Brice, Pastor David Mosher, Pastor Tasha Tubbs

Radical Discipleship: When we actually go back and look at the way Jesus trained His disciples and apply those basic principles in today's culture – it really is “radical” compared to what is common today!

1. How did Jesus example discipleship? What was His method?

A. Taught them the Word (The Word himself taught them The Word!)

Knowledge (or what we today would call “education”) received of The Word of God not just head knowledge but heart and life transformation. Only the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit can transform someone inwardly.

- Jesus “the Word” (**John 1:1&14; Revelation 19:13**)

Romans 8:29, "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

- The process of discipleship was designed to transform us to behave, speak, and think like Jesus (“predestined to be conformed...”) conformed to the Word - conformed to the identity of Jesus inside us!

- It was always God's plan for us to be a part of His family! (“He might be the firstborn...”)

Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1. Used direct teaching ("When you pray...")
2. Used simple common examples ("The kingdom of heaven is like...")
3. Corrected their misunderstandings of Scripture ("You have heard it said...")
4. Never answered an incorrect question ("Why do you call Me good?")

B. Gave them increasing experience in ministry.

Experience (or wisdom gained by handling The Word of God in life, from a servant's heart and position; we would call it “ministry experience”).

John 6:5-6, "Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, 'Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?' But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do."

1. He sent them out two by two
2. He worked with a small group (Peter, James and John)
3. He sent them out as the Seventy.
4. Life application is vital for the life of a disciple! The experience in ministry that

He gave them provided them with experience that they would need when He would no longer be with them. Ultimately, what they believed, they would live out.

C. Built them into a community; a community of love and grace.

Relationship (the daily walk with Jesus – who is, “The Word of God”) built within a community of faith and friendship.

1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people..."

1. Jesus knew what was coming - He was establishing the foundation of the Church.

2. They had to learn how to walk together in unity, diversity. (Men & women; former Jews & Greeks; slaves & free). Relationships with one another never risked their individuality! But it furthered the mission of the cross.

3. They had to learn how to walk together in adversity.

4. There was a distinct difference between their new culture and the culture of the world; a "counter-culture" not a "sub-culture" (Kingdoms colliding such as we see in Acts 17 – “turning the world upside down” Acts 17:5 – “the unknown god” Acts 17:16).

5. They had to depend upon each other for everything - the influx of "new members" (3,000 in one day!) would have overwhelmed them otherwise. True community acknowledges that every single person has a part to play.

2. This type of discipleship training would lead them to receive direct revelation from their Heavenly Father for themselves. (RE: "Give a man a fish or teach him how to fish for himself.")

“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’” **(Matthew 16:13-17)**

A. These three factors (the Word, experience, community) prepared Peter's heart to receive the revelation straight from God the Father that Jesus was not just a Man, not just a Teacher, not just a Leader - but He is, the Son of God!

B. Who do you say that Jesus is? Rich Mullins once said, "I am convinced that when we stand before Jesus the first question that he will ask us will be: 'Did you believe that I loved you?'" The prophet Bob Jones said that he believed that the first question Jesus was going to ask us was, "Did you learn how to love?" This is the core revelation of the Greatest Commandments: "Loving God and Loving People" (Matthew 22:37-40)

C. Our revelation of who He is, leads us to first desire HIM! Then it leads to a desire to follow Him and leads us to desire to be trained as His disciple.

3. How is the effectiveness of Jesus method of training His disciples seen in the Book of Acts?

"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.'" – **Matthew 28:18-20**

A. Jesus appeared to them for 40-days and "straightened-out their theology"; they were in fear, locked away or running away after the crucifixion. Then, after meeting with the resurrected Jesus:

B. Disciples were ready to evangelize the world before the Day of Pentecost. (Jesus had to tell them to wait before they started their mission. He had to restrain them!)

Acts 1:4, "And being assembled together with them He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father..."

C. They realized they needed both the Word of God and the Spirit of God!

D. After Pentecost – the Church exploded both in evangelism and discipleship!

4. Why do people struggle in their faith as a disciple, or fall away from the faith completely?

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

A. Love has to be the foundation

1. A salvation experience based on anything other than the call of love, cannot be sustained!

2. Attempting to live out a life as a disciple without living in God's love would be like working out after days of binge eating junk food and expecting to complete a marathon.

John 16:33, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

B. Failed expectations

1. Hard times will always reveal what we’ve stored on the inside---It has to be the word! (Jesus modeled this!)

2. Peace remains when our expectations are rooted in the revelation who God is (His character and nature) in every situation

Luke 14:27, “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

C. Not counting the cost!

1. Jesus reminded the people that a disciple’s mission is to pursue relationship with Him and make disciples, otherwise they aren’t a disciple