

Developing Disciples
Part 3
“Revelations and Realizations”

3/18/26

Text: Acts 13:6-12

1. Recap

- A. Remember to go make disciples is our mandate
- B. Remember that your disciple might frequent the sanctuary, engage them
- C. Remember to meet them where they are at in life when teaching the bible study; let them tell you their story
- D. Remember they need love and truth, not either or

2. Every disciple's development will be different than the rest

- A. Explain the variables of their place in life, religious background, lifestyle, past hurts, and overall perspective of life
- B. We cannot compare this disciple to our last one or our next one
- C. We also cannot compare our disciple's progress with others disciples progress
- D. The important thing is that we are living at the level where we can be trusted with developing a disciple, explain
- E. Can God trust me with a person headed to heaven or hell?
- F. It doesn't require perfection, it requires love and compassion for others

3. Situations, circumstances, and ceilings for the developer to consider

- A. As previously alluded too, every disciple is different
- B. Not everyone is going to want to start at Acts 2:38
- C. There are hidden things going on in your disciple's life that you might want to consider as you pray for and develop your disciple
- D. We will discuss three potential hidden situations, circumstances, and ultimately ceilings in their lives

4. First, the hidden influencer

- A. Understand this, if you are trying to pull someone out of hell, someone is trying to keep them there
- B. In Acts 13, hell had an equal influencer in the deputy's life, explain
- C. If you are trying to encourage a Samson, know that there is a Delilah in his world somewhere
- D. The influencer isn't always a "friend", although it certainly can be
- E. The influencer is usually the person closest to the person, that is not coming with the person on their journey

- F. Examples: a family member who does not want to personally change (a parent, a spouse, a sibling, etc) a group of friends or co-workers that the person feels a bond with, a girlfriend or boyfriend, or perhaps an unbelieving professor or teacher etc
- G. In these situations, our influence must be filled with grace, wisdom and spiritual authority, explain
- H. This is why we need to stay prayed up; hell is out there training to take your disciple down
- I. Our influence must be more powerful than the other influencers stronghold in their life
- J. This is why we constantly need to check on them

5. Second, the hidden cost

- A. Read Luke 9:23
- B. Read Luke 9:59-60
- C. Every disciple has to walk away from their world
- D. Example of Abraham leaving it all behind
- E. Abraham is the father of the faithful for a reason, he left everything first
- F. "Remember Lots wife" is in the Bible for a reason also
- G. Your disciple is going to have to leave relationships, environments, lifestyles, attitudes, and agendas behind as they draw closer to Jesus
- H. As they grow, they could lose people in their world that mean so much to them
- I. Not because the church demands it but rather, the Lord does
- J. Read Luke 9:61-62
- K. People they love, but can no longer participate in the former activities with, are now critiquing, ridiculing, and possibly mocking them
- L. Michal, David's wife, seemed to be a supportive wife until David started dancing with all of his might before the Lord
- M. She said, not only will I not participate with you, I am going to attack you for doing it. David lost his wife that day. David continued dancing
- N. Being there to comfort, reassure, and help guide the disciple through this season is crucial for the developer

6. Third, the hidden test

- A. As the disciple grows in their commitment to the Lord and His holiness, he or she will be tested with conviction
- B. They will begin to see and hear things in the Bible and in the church that challenge where they are in the Lord
- C. Things like holiness; example of women not wearing men's apparel in Deuteronomy 22:5
- D. Things like biblical stewardship; Gods commands concerning tithing
- E. Things like becoming a new creature; giving up worldly music, entertainment, and addictions that are feeding the flesh as they try to walk in the Spirit
- F. Examples in scripture: Romans 8:1, 4; Galatians 5:16
- G. The hidden test could be on any subject that God sees as a ceiling in their life

- H. To help them with the hidden test, they must understand biblical commands, principles, and convictions
- I. You need to be able to help explain these to them in a loving manner
- J. They might not always pass the test, in fact they might walk away to never be seen again (this is painful to the developer)
- K. Example of the rich young ruler in in both Matthew 19 and Luke 18
- L. Jesus told him some basic commandments from the Bible, when the young man asked those questions, Jesus brought up the hidden test
- M. The hidden test will deal with something difficult to let go of
- N. An identity, mindset, lifestyle, or attitude
- O. It could be holiness, finances, addictions, or all of the above
- P. The test could reveal the ceiling; give examples
- Q. If they fail the faithfulness test, they'll never fully know the presence of God in their life
- R. If they fail the daily devotional test, they wont recognize the voice of God in their life
- S. If they fail the tithing test, they'll never know the levels of provision that God could give them
- T. If they fail the holiness test, they will lose the protection of God in their lives

7. Closing: Prayer for wisdom and understanding

- A. Love them in spite of their influencers, costs, and tests
- B. Live above reproach so they will want to follow you when the chips are down
- C. Lead them to Jesus And His church, not yourself