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THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE



“Training in Truth” • Dave Gibson • 10/11/2020

Listen, there are two starkly different ways to approach Olympic competition:

Option A: Severe, prolonged, and unrelenting training.

Option B: Trying really, really, really, really hard when you get to the event.

When disciples fail it's not because they don't try, it's because they don't train!

Have you ever been in an event where you felt inadequate or overwhelmed because of a lack of preparation? How effective were you? How did you feel?

Training in Truth for us as Individual Disciples. John 8:31, 32

- Believe in Jesus. Bad News, Good News, Invitation. (v 31a)
- If you continue in Jesus' word...you are truly disciples of His. (v 31b)
- If you continue in Jesus' word...you will know the truth. (v 32a)
- If you continue in Jesus's word...the truth will make you free. (v 32b)

From the verses above in John 8, why do you think training in the truth of the Scripture is absolutely essential? What are the promises in these verses to those of us who study and understand the commands of Jesus?

- If you continue in Jesus's word...there are dozens of other major benefits! Conviction of sin. Light. Direction. Hope. Courage. Joy. Lightheartedness (Rev 19-21), because you have read the end of the Story and you know that Jesus wins big time, you win, we win, and all evil loses big time! *When we understand the panorama of God's plan and the consummation of history, how does that allow us to handle the chaos and stress of life in the here and now? How does the benefit of training in Scripture allow us to be light-hearted?*
- **Please be clear about something:** Truth is found in God's Revelation, not inside of me.

Knowing that we are sinful and are bound by the dimensions of space and time, why is searching for the truth in ourselves a very bad idea?

- **Please be clear about something:** The highest leverage activity for promoting your spiritual growth is to read your Bible for yourself every day. *Dave Gibson used the illustration of receiving a letter from someone that you love very much and throwing it in a drawer without reading it. Would you ever consider doing that? Why would we treat the ultimate love letter from the God of the Universe in that manner?*

Training in Truth for us as we Help Other Disciples grow. 2 Timothy 2:2

- There are only two kinds of people in the world: the lost, who need to be evangelized; and the saved who need to be trained. *Jesus never gives us the option of giving up on his commands if we love Him. Why is evangelism and the training of disciples not only essential to advancing God's kingdom but one of the best thing that we can do for our own spiritual growth and intimacy with the Lord?*
- What qualifies you to train other disciples? Salvation, Jesus command, Spirit's enabling. *n essence, mocking God? We are completely qualified to train others as disciples. We will never be perfect in practicing the commands of Christ, but we can know them and can ask the Holy Spirit to position us to train others and to allow us to be effective in that training. If we don't follow through, how are we, in essence, mocking God?*
- Jesus' training pattern was "obedience-based discipleship, not knowledge-based discipleship. ("MAWL"):

Knowledge-based discipleship is an oxymoron. Why? (Think in terms of obedience-based discipleship in which we learn the truth and adjust our lives accordingly.)

- **The Seven Commands of Christ.** The seven foundational things Jesus trained His first disciples to do, and commanded them to train the next generation to do, and they in turn trained the next generation, and on down the generations—all the way until He returns:
 1. Repent and Believe. Mark 1:15. *Why are repentance and belief fundamental in understanding the other commands of Christ?*
 2. Be Baptized. Matthew 28:19.
 3. Pray. Matthew 6:9-13
 4. Make Disciples. Matthew 28:19, 20
 5. Love. Matthew 22:37-39
 6. Lord's Supper. Luke 22:19-20
 7. Give. Luke 6:38

Application #1: Learn the Seven Commands of Christ by heart. *Comment on the 2nd-7th commands of Christ. How do these resonate with you? Will you commit to learn and practice these commands?*

Application #2: Start doing one additional Command, one that you are not already doing.

Application #3: Teach the Seven Commands to someone—a friend, a grandchild, a co-worker, a neighbor, a disciple, a parent, or anyone who will listen.

Core Truth: You can recognize disciples of Jesus... because they train more disciples of Jesus. *Does this describe you? Will you rely on the Lord and Holy Spirit to enable you and make you effective in train others as disciples?*

Resources for Studying and Teaching the Love Letter from God: (Bulletin Insert)

- Logos Bible Software. (This program is free and insanely powerful!) www.logos.com

- *Living by the Book* by Howard Hendricks. (This is a stunning book on Bible study!)
- www.bible.org (This website is excellent!)
- *Conformed to His Image* by Ken Boa (An insightful overview on how disciples grow.)
- Daily Bible reading plans. (Hundreds on the web)
- Michael Easley's 66 messages on the 66 Books of the Bible. www.stonebridgebible.org
- *Follow Him* by Mark Bailey (Terrific discussion on the traits of a disciples.)
- *The Training of the Twelve* by A. B. Bruce (Classic and profound book on discipleship.)
- www.noplacelleft.net. Then: "Four Fields Strategy and The Seven Commands of Christ."