

Prioritizing Intentional Relationships



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Our Purpose: To be a community of believers where, no matter who you are, you can experience life change through Jesus Christ.

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

—*Luke 6:12-13 (ESV)*

1. Jesus Prioritized intentional relationships because

A. Life change happens through relationships

“HAPHAZARDLY relating to people develops Associations; INTENTIONALLY investing in people Changes Lives.”

B. It was about a movement not a moment.

“His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow.”

— *Author Robert E. Colman*

2. Jesus Intentionally Invested in

A. His Followers

1) By Concentrating on a Few

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach

—Mark 3:14 (ESV)

“You can impress people from a distance but you can impact them only up close.”

— author Howard Hendricks

2) By Giving Them His Time

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach

—Mark 3:14 (ESV)

3) By Loving Them Deeply

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

—John 13:34 (ESV)

4) By Treating Them as Friends

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

—John 15:15 (ESV)

B. People Far From God

1) By Giving Them His Presence

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

—Matthew 11:18-19 (ESV)

Be interested enough in them to get interested in what matters to them.

2) By Giving Them Kindness

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

—Luke 15:1-2 (ESV)

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

—John 3:17 (ESV)

3) By Pointing to Hope

She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

—John 8:11 (ESV)