



Marketplace Ministry Formation

Spiritual Exercise

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1John 5:14-15

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD;

Teach me Your paths.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You *are* the God of my salvation;

On You I wait all the day. Psalm 25:4-5

Introduction

As God reveals His plan for accomplishing the purpose He has for each of us, we discover that He has His own way for getting things done. His ways – though sometimes uncomfortable – are the best ways. In today's lesson we will explore two more of His ways: The way of unity and the way of making disciples. Both are related to the formation of marketplace ministry in a church, community, business or other marketplace setting (e.g., school board, government office).

First, we will search out the importance of unity in the kingdom of God. In the lesson on Counting the Cost – Our Investment we discovered that loving one another is a requirement of discipleship. We discussed that the pronoun "you" is plural over 85% of the times it is used in the New Testament. This includes Jesus' command for our work:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. John 5:16

But, there is more. In this lesson we will explore the desire of Christ, and the power of God, for unity.

The second topic we will explore is how to make disciples God's way. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." Discipleship is the way we enter into the work God is doing to redeem the world to Himself and get back those things He lost in the Garden. Bonhoeffer also said, "Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life." If this is true – and it is – then we would be wise to make the most of our investment.

Definition

Equip (from *katartizō*): to render fit, sound, complete; to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair; to complete; to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust; to fit or frame for one's self, prepare; ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be. *Blue Letter Bible Outline of Biblical Usage*

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Edify (*oikodomē*): (the act of) building, building up; the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness; a building (i.e. the thing built, edifice).

Blue Letter Bible Outline of Biblical Usage

Searching Out the Matter

(All Scripture references, but those noted, are NKJV; Thomas Nelson, Inc.; footnotes excluded)

The Purpose and Power of Unity

Psalm 133

John 17:20-23

Ephesians 4:1-3

Ephesians 4:11-16

Colossians 3:12-14

1Corinthians 3:1-4

Making Disciples God's Way

A Google search for "discipleship resources" will return "approx. 311,000 results (in 0.07 seconds)"! A search for "discipleship" on ChristianBook.com returns 6379 resources. Refining that search to "disciple-making" returned (only?) 311 resources. Just imagine, if you could read one "disciple-making" book a week, it would take you six years to complete your research. And, as someone has noted, there would be five or ten more written; and you might write one yourself.

Any way you look at it, we don't lack for resources when it comes to the Great Commission. So what's gone wrong? Why is it taking so long for man to complete the primary task Jesus left to us?

John 20:21

John 5:30

John 10:37-38

John 12:44-50

John 14:7-11

John 14:12-14

Matthew 10:25

John 15:1-8

John 20:21-23

Galatians 2:20

Matthew 16:25

How will It Look... Anticipations

Christ was sent by God to both make a way for our salvation (i.e., restoration of man into His story), and to show us what it means to be a disciple and a disciple maker. He only did what the Father was doing; and He

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did it God's way. Christ's final instructions to the disciples reveal the immediate blessings and the Father's expectations in our being made a disciple, and in making disciples, His way.

These instructions (aka, commission) are found in each of the Gospels and in the first chapter of Acts. Read each account, and consider the following highlights:

Matthew 28:16-20

1. Christ first established that He had been given the authority to commission them.
2. He expected them to go to all the nations.
3. Baptizing was an important expectation (and worth searching out).
4. They were not to just teach Christ's commands, but to teach them to observe the commands. From Vines Dictionary, this means to "to watch over, preserve" – a word close to "steward".

Mark 16:14-20

1. Signs will follow those who believe – they are for the church, not the unsaved.
2. These signs are supernatural and involve the spiritual realm.
3. Though it was His followers that went out and preached, it was the "Lord working".

Luke 24:44-53

1. An understanding of the Old Testament was important – particularly as it relates to Christ.
2. Repentance and remission of sins are an important part of the message.
3. It was important to note that He blessed them.
4. The result was great joy, and them praising and blessing God.

John 20:19-23

1. Disciple making produces peace – the peace of God that transcends all understanding.
2. Evidence of Christ's suffering and sacrifice are a part of the disciple maker's character.
3. Jesus sends His disciple makers as the Father sent Him – to do only what He is doing. A properly made disciple has exchanged their life for Christ's.
4. The Holy Spirit is given by Christ, and must be received by the one being made.
5. Incredibly, disciples are given the authority to forgive and retain sins. This speaks both to our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ and to our Heavenly Father's trust in His children.

Acts 1:4-8

1. There is not only a baptism in water, but one in the Holy Spirit. This baptism requires a "waiting".
2. This baptism "when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" precludes the disciple bearing witness to Jesus Christ, wherever they are sent.

Assignment

1. Review your notes and the Scripture passages from this week's module. Share the ones that are most meaningful to someone you are discipling.
2. How does this understanding of "disciple" changed your perspective of your relationship with Christ? How does this impact the disciple making God is doing in you? How does this impact the disciple making God is doing through you?
3. Consider the Christ's expectations in our disciple making. Which are most intriguing to you? Commit to explore these further. They may lead to God's purpose for you.

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4. Do any of Christ's expectations expose a fear? Remember, behind every fear there is a lie. Deal with the lie and the fear will fly. Commit to deal with the lie.

Devotion

To Transform a City (Tim Keller; 03/07/2011) – Attached