

Discipleship

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Lar/AL: Calvary Kids. Online. Movie Night. No service 10/31, 2 Sun 11/1. Men's prayer. Wed Night. FBR Movie.
- B. Slide8 Children at Risk: Sunday, 3-5 pm in courtyard. Norma Vazquez, *Anti-Human Trafficking Director from Operation SafeHouse* will be doing a presentation on the current myths and misinformation that is being circulated regarding trafficking. Come get educated, hear truth, and learn how you can help.
- C. Prayer: Gospel driven. Worship focused. Morally pure. Evangelistically bold. Discipleship grounded. Family faithful, and Socially responsible.

II. Slide9 Intro: Discipleship / Follower, lit. Learner

- A. The yoke and the cross are *twin symbols* of Christian experience.
 1. The cross speaks of leaving the world for Christ.
 2. The yoke speaks of learning in the world from Christ.
 - a) The one speaks of **sacrifice**. The other **service**.
 - b) The **disciple** must bear **both**, he cannot choose to take one **and** leave the other.
- B. Slide10a I think in the gospels the disciples understanding of discipleship was *simply... exactly what Jesus did with them for the last 3 years.*
1 person, taking a small group for a certain period of time, to become like Him.
Or we can call it, going deep in the lives of a few.
 1. Slide10b-g It's an *intentional-interactive-relationship*. Not necessarily 1 on 1, **but** 1 leading a small group/community.
 2. It's teaching them how to find the **truth** in Gods word, *not nec by "giving them" a bible study*, **but** more importantly teaching them how to **study the bible for themselves**.
 3. It's helping them with making that truth **understandable and usable in their lives**. By **asking questions: how do you do it?** And answering questions: *Here's how I did it.*

4. **It's accountability.** *Not just asking hard questions & challenging bad behaviors. It's identifying the **sin beneath the sin**.* Its inviting one another in your group, to **invade the heart** of one another, & to help each other **clean out the heart**.
5. **It's living out your faith** as you **live & work & play**. Not just in **word** but in **deed**.
 - a) So, by the end of the year they are **making an impact** where they **live** & where they **work** & where they **play**.
6. **It's in praying...with** each other & **for** each other.

III. Slide11a **BARBERSHOP STOP (18-23)**

- A. (18) **Why the stop at the barbershop?** Represented the fulfillment of a *Nazarite vow* (Num.6) this was a hair issue. This was a symbol of **a self-offering** to God.
 1. **Slide11b A Nazarite vow deals w/3 things:** abstain from **wine** (from seed-skin), abstain from **cutting your hair** for a period (then cut/burn), not go near a **dead body**.
 2. It was a Jewish ritual of **thanksgiving**. [Deeply grateful for the fruit of his 2nd term, large church in Corinth, legal victory in Gallio's court, he wouldn't be harmed, & many converts] (Samson did, *not well*. **Jesus** didn't)

IV. Slide12a **DISCIPLESHIP EXPLAINED**

- A. 2 Tim 2:2 **And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men** who will be able to teach **others** also.
[**me** (Paul), **you** (Timothy, Silas, Aquila & Priscilla, Dr. Luke), **faithful men/women** (Corinthians, Apollos, Ephesians), **others** (many in Achaia)]
 1. **Slide12b CM Motto** (our, simplified rule to live by) is: **To live** the Great Commandment & **To fulfill** the Great Commission.
 2. **Great Commission?** making **disciples** (not just converts)...**but how?**
- B. When Christians develop principles of a balanced life...*Then what?*

1. **A:** These were not meant to stay **locked in a vault** but to be **invested in others**.

V. Slide13a **PAUL MODELED DISCIPLESHIP IN CORINTH (1-23)**

A. Let's look at 3 steps Paul took:

B. Slide13b **1st STEP – GET CLOSE**

C. He initiated a **friendship**, **worked with them** to make tents, & even **lived with them**.

1. **Great couple**. Each time mentioned together. **Important workers** to the early church. Being Jews they were expelled from Rome. One day they returned to Rome & had a church in their house. They were w/Paul in Eph when he wrote 1 Cor.

D. In a discipleship relationship the better we **know one another**, the more we learn how to **resolve real-life problems**.

1. Don't display a **perfect** Christian standard no one can reach.
2. Discipleship keeps the truth at **eye level**, making it **understandable & accessible**.
3. That's **taking risks** allowing them to watch your Christianity.

E. Slide13c **2nd STEP – COACH**

F. He trained them in spiritual matters.

1. These included **formal times** in the synagogue **as well as casual times** in their home. (4,11)
2. His teaching **wasn't** cloaked in **rhetoric**, **it was clothed in real life**, & they eagerly embraced it.

G. **Start simply:** **Read** a book of the Bible together, **do** a study together.

1. **Ask questions:** **Read - 26 Questions, by Gordon MacDonald.**

H. Slide13d Here's your ultimate goal: *A disciple continues in the Word, loves others, bears fruit, and puts Christ first.*

I. Slide13e **3rd STEP – MULTIPLY**

J. His 3rd step was to multiply himself through them.

1. This is implied in his actions in vs.18,19 & 24.
2. Those in Ephesus desired Paul to stay (20), **but** instead turned it over to **Aquila & Priscilla**.

K. **Slide14** After a distinguished **performing** career, *virtuoso violinist* **Jascha Heifetz** (Russian-Jew from Vilnius) accepted an appointment as **professor of music** at **UCLA**. Asked what had prompted his change of career, Heifetz replied: *Violin playing is a perishable art. It must be passed on as a personal skill; otherwise it is lost.*

1. We need to listen to this great musician. [Yaa SHaa Hi-Fitz]
2. Living the Christian life is a highly **personal** experience.
3. We can't pull it off merely by **watching** skilled veterans **perform**, **we need hands-on instruction!**

VI. **Slide15a AQUILA & PRISCILLA MODELS DISCIPLESHIP IN EPHESUS (24-26)**

A. They were immediately impressed with this young man Apollo.

1. They saw a diamond-in-the-rough.

B. **Apollos:**

1. He was from **Alexandria** (pop. 600,000. A University town w/a 700,000 volume library, & a worldwide reputation for learning)
2. He was **eloquent** (*logios* in Greek, means a gifted speaker & deep thinker)¹
3. He was **mighty in the OT Scriptures**.
4. He **had been instructed in the way of the Lord** (teachings about Christ) [Martin Luther, poss writer of Heb? connection of OT & Christ]
5. He had **a heart on fire. Being fervent in spirit**. (Lit. means boiling over in spirit, full of enthusiasm) [LKGNT]
6. He was obviously **teachable** – What a trait...from 2 day laborers.

C. **But**, this is where his eloquence & knowledge stops.

1. He didn't understand the **full orb** of the **gospel of grace** completed with Jesus' crucifixion & resurrection.
2. Neither did he know about **the baptism of the Holy Spirit** at Pentecost.

¹ A.T.Robertson; Vol.3, pg.306.

- a) Slide15b Apollos was not inaccurate or insincere, but just incomplete. He needed to be **disciplined**. [eg. my Venza nav system perfect for 2010]

- D. Aquila & Priscilla tactfully reached out to **disciple him** (both men & woman capable!)
1. Even w/a powerful resume, he was **deficient** in (1) his practice (not bap of HS) and (2) teaching (missing things, after the res, i.e. bap of HS/Pent)
 2. And once he grasped the complete truth, there was no holding him back.
 3. He wanted to go to the region of Achaia.
 4. He had his own goals & style of ministry. (Don't **disciple** them to be exactly like you. It's not **Christian-Cloning**) [Dolly/sheep only lived 6.5 yrs]
 5. Rather than squelching/suppressing him, Aquila & Priscilla helped to write a letter of recommendation for him.
- E. In all positive discipling relationships, there is a time to **let go**.
1. Discipling is **training**, but it is also **releasing** the person so that the disciplined one can **train others**.
 2. And that's what Apollos set out to do, as he set sail for Achaia.

VII. Slide16 As Paul instructed Aquila & Priscilla, then they passed their learning on to Apollos, now he voiced the same message to those back in **Achaia**, where Paul had started.

VIII. Slide17 OUR PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- A. What were the 3 steps? – **Get Close, Coach & Multiply**.
- B. Do you see any *diamond-in-the-rough's* around you, you can invest in?
1. Whom might you reach through the discipleship process?
- C. Are you ready? When is the best time to start? **Now**
1. I encourage you don't wait to have it perfected, or for a **program**...
Go for it. Business men/women, stay at home moms, college students...
Go make disciples. [Go make...students, apprentices, practitioners]
- a) Note: **disciple** is found in the NT 275 x's...**Christian** 3 x's.
2. If you're not presently in a discipling relationship, what barriers have you kept you from entering one?

3. Sometimes we think, *How could I help anyone else in their Christian Life? When I'm still having problems in mine.*

a) **Remember:** The best disciplers **aren't perfect** Christians.

(1) Just be **caring, authentic & take some initiative.**

D. **Maybe find someone like Aquila & Priscilla** – Someone who has a **background** similar to yours. Similar likes & dislikes. Someone with whom you can work well. Someone who is interested in *following the Lord.*

1. **Then**, ask **how can I associate more closely w/this person?**

2. **How can I build companionship & vulnerability** before the training begins?

E. What satisfaction that...God has used **you** to change **one person**, who changed **another**, who changed **another**, who changed **another**.

F. **Last Advice:**

1. **Remember:** They belong to **God** (not *you*). **Don't let them become dependent on you.** Allow them the freedom to **fail**. **Instill confidence in the Lord** in them. When they demonstrate the ability to train someone else, your job is through. **Now begin again. That's discipleship. Are you willing to try? It is doable!**

G. **Slide 18 2 different examples on Making Disciples:**

1. **Addition:** If 1 person made 1000 converts every year, for 33 years = **33,000 converts.**

2. **Multiplication:** If 1 person just lead 1 person to Christ in a yr (2 saved). Next year (4). Next yr (8). In 30 yrs, over 1 billion people. In 33 yrs, **8.5 billion. Done!**

H. Shannon & band come on up while I pray.

I. **Prayer:** Lord help us to bear both the **Yoke & the Cross**, *our sacrifice & service.*