



DISCIPLE MAKERS

A MANDATE FOR ALL CHRIST FOLLOWERS

LARRY NEVILLE

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Rancho Cucamonga, California

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This book is dedicated to my son,

Paul Lawrence Neville

No dad could be more proud or have a better son or disciple.

Thank you Paul

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1, Aha](#)

[Chapter 2, Jesus](#)

[Chapter 3, Following](#)

[Chapter 4, Exampleship](#)

[Chapter 5, Creditability](#)

[Chapter 6, Knowledge](#)

[Chapter 7, Motivation](#)

[Chapter 8, Goal](#)

[Chapter 9, Authority](#)

[Chapter 10, Church](#)

[Chapter 11, Impartation](#)

[Chapter 12, Judas](#)

[Chapter 13, Legacy](#)

[Chapter 14, Reward](#)

[Notes](#)

Introduction

The Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships is about disciple makers. Discipleship is the very foundation of this movement. We are a disciple making and church planting, Family of Fellowships. As a result, we are experiencing a great blessing and multiplication of souls. Workers and leaders are being raised up and churches are multiplying in a New Testament pattern.

The ultimate test of revival is the way it reproduces leaders. Reproducibility is the desire of great leaders and every enduring spiritual awakening. We are experiencing this. Some who will read this book are generations removed from me personally. You may be in a Praise Chapel church that was sent out from a church that was sent out from a church that was sent out from...maybe seven or more generations from the original Praise Chapel church in Maywood, California. You are the generational fruit of disciple making.

You might not fully understand this, but simply asking yourself a few questions, can convince you of what I am saying. If you are a Praise Chapel pastor, who told you that you could pioneer a church? What gave you the idea that you were qualified? Who taught you to worship? If you are a disciple in a Praise Chapel church, how did the church get started? Where did they get the vision of Win, Build and Send? Did these ideas just come by revelation or did a pastor or someone share them with you? Yes, you are the fruit of disciple making.

This book is for you. I can't sit and impart my heart to each of you personally but I can write this for you. I value what God is doing in Praise Chapel and I want to see it continue to multiply generationally. Disciple making is the key. I trust that this book will challenge you to understand that at the end of the day, after all the religious fads come and go, and the latest church growth formula has lost it's fizz—disciple making will stand.

Why can I say that so confidently? Jesus was a disciple maker. He commanded us to make disciples. When the church thrives it is because disciple makers have returned to the simplicity of our Master's command.

Larry Neville – November 2011

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Chapter 1



AHA!

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20 TNIV

It was one of those “Aha!” moments, when an enlightenment comes in an instant and you have a monumental change in life. I was 27 years old, sitting across from a pastor I had met only a couple of days before, when I came to preach a week of nightly meetings at his church. He was aware that I was thinking about transitioning from an itinerant ministry to pioneering a church. As he sat across from me in the restaurant, he said, “How can I help you?” I felt and knew that he was sincere in his statement. At that moment something happened inside of me that changed my view of what ministry is about. If you were sitting there, you would not have realized that something had happened, but I was changed.

It Was A Supernatural Moment

Maybe it was the timing in my life that day. A time when I was pondering decisions about the future ministry I would be involved in. Perhaps it was that I had been fasting and praying about our next move in life. Maybe, it was his spirit and heart of this father in the faith, that touched my spirit. Most likely it was all of that and more put together. Whatever prepared me for it, or caused it to happen, it was a supernatural moment that changed me.

I had already been involved in church ministry most my life. My dad was a traveling tent preacher in the 1950’s, so as early as I can remember, I was helping to put up the gospel tent. By the time I was ten, I was playing the organ and piano in the tent services. When my brother and I become teenagers, we began traveling and preaching meetings. As soon as Janet and I were married we were ministering as a team. By the time I sat across from this pastor, I had been around all types of ministries and preachers. Yet, this was the first time a pastor had ever showed true interest in helping me. It was always about helping them, their church, what I could do for them. They needed a revival, a youth pastor, a worship leader, an assistant pastor or whatever other talent they felt I had, that could help

them. That is how it always came across. This was different. Here was a pastor who wanted to help me. From that moment on, I realized that ministry is not about me, it is about helping others to fulfill their purpose in Christ.

I learned a lot over many years from this pastor—disciple maker—but it was that supernatural “Aha!” moment that changed my understanding of what ministry is. It is in this understanding or should I say, “*personal revelation*” that disciple making is released. Disciple making is a spiritual work. It takes the supernatural power of God to bring spiritual revelation or insight into the heart and understanding of an individual to make him or her into a disciple maker of Jesus Christ. The “Aha!” moments are times where the Spirit of God is at work in the life of a disciple to impart spiritual truths.

Disciple Making is a Spiritual Work

My dear friend and mentor, the late Dr. John Holland would say, “Spirituality is the ability to receive from the realm of the spirit and release it into the physical, material universe.” The problem comes when we filter the revelation of God through our cultural background, educational processes, our carnal minds and so forth. We attach our ideas and methods to what the Spirit says. We take making disciples out of the spiritual realm and make it an educational course. We tell disciples that they need to study and pray, read an amount of Scriptures each morning, practice disciplines, join accountability groups and on and on the lessons go. It is in this process that we can leave out and lose the very source and power for disciple making. Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples...” The call to go and make disciples is based upon the “all authority” and “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” is sandwiched between these two statements.

You can read many books to learn the practical application of disciple making, providing instruction on the, how to. How to pray, read, be accountable and so forth. I am not minimizing the need for the practical or the personal, spiritual disciplines involved in being a disciple and a disciple maker. But, there is the “Aha!.” The, “All authority” and the “I am with you,” that brings the work of the Spirit of God into the call to make disciples. I cannot make disciples of Jesus Christ without his spiritual authority, “power,” at work in and through me and without the presence of the Holy Spirit actively involved.

Once we move to make disciples by, textbook, class room, or a set formula that some one has developed in their workbook for discipleship or instructional “how to” manual, then we fall into the danger of missing the spiritual element that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.

It is not the power of our teaching or instruction that makes disciples.

It is not a dynamic program with all the systems in place that makes disciples.

It is the disciple maker, our teaching and application of the words of Jesus Christ, sandwiched between his authority and his active presence.

If we think that we can make disciples of Jesus Christ without being right in the middle of his authority and his presence then we will make something, but not men and women who are truly following and experiencing the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The “All Authority” and the “I Am With You”

It is amazing to experience spiritual life sandwiched between the “All authority” and the “I am with you always” at work. As Dr. John Holland said, “Spirituality is the ability to receive from the realm of the spirit and release it into the physical, material universe.” I write about disciple making in this understanding and move with caution as I seek to talk to you about this work of the Spirit of God which Jesus did and commanded us to do—“make disciples.” I do not want to impress upon you some new formulas. I want to release you to a dependence upon the “All authority” and the “I am with you,” so that you can live in the, in between. It is there that we are able to take from the realm of the spirit and release it into the physical. This does not produce a classroom, a system or a curriculum. It releases life. Life is what disciple making is about. It is a 24/7 process where God is working in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ to form him or her into the likeness of his dear Son. Where God is working out his salvation through our moment by moment and day to day experiences, bringing the teaching of the Word of God to life.

Motive Is The Number One Issue

To me, motive, is the number one issue when it comes to disciple making. What is motivating me in ministry? Why do I want to make disciples? Somehow a revelation, bringing clarity, came into my being and at that “Aha!” instant. The Spirit of God was there when pastor Wayman Mitchell said, “How can I help you?” Those words came from a heart that I knew were said with an honest and pure motive. He was not manipulating me to get me to join his ministry as so many had done before. There was a genuine concern for what God had for my life and a desire to help see that come to pass. He meant what he said and the spirit that was behind those words resonated within me. At that moment, I understood that ministry was not about me. Not about self-preservation. Not about self-promotion. Not about building a church. Before that, I don’t believe that I was in the ministry with wrong or selfish motives, but at that moment with a disciple making pastor something changed inside of me.

Since that “Aha!” moment, my whole life has been about helping others fulfill their destiny in Christ.

I have experienced the personal joy of disciple making. Today, I work with hundreds of pastors and churches in many parts of the world who were saved in our ministry, discipled and sent out to pioneer churches. Many of them are reproducing more disciples and church pioneers. This has not happened because we developed a system or program. It is the fruit of motive, the “Why am I doing this?”

Disciple Making is not Something that Someone can Just Do and Keep Doing

You have to have a heart for disciple making and only God can give you that heart. If you try to make disciples out of wrong motives in your heart, it will not happen. You might gather crowds around you and achieve success in ministry by today’s standards, but at the end of day, will you have made disciples? “Go and make disciples” is what Jesus commanded us to do.

Somewhere as you journey with me, as I seek to draw from the realm of the spirit and release it

onto the pages of this book, I trust that you will have an “Aha!” experience. It might be one simple thought, a sentence, or maybe nothing I write, only the Spirit of God catching you at a moment like I had in that restaurant.

When you have it, you will know it and your life and ministry can be changed in a moment of time. Only God can do that and he wants to.

Chapter 2



JESUS

“This is that disciple who saw these events and recorded them here. And we all know that his account of these things is accurate.”

John 21:24 NLT

At the end of three years of unbelievable ministry on earth Jesus had one hundred and twenty people, including the eleven disciples, in a meeting on the Day of Pentecost. Most of Christianity today would not pay any attention to a leader with a ministry that size. Especially considering that he drew crowds of thousands of people during his three years of ministry. If the ministry of Jesus was analyzed at the time of his death by today’s expectations, it might be said that he did not have the ability to hold on to people or he wasn’t organized enough to close the back door. Others might say that he required too much commitment.

Jesus Focused His Ministry Upon Disciples

We understand that his strategy was never to gather a crowd—but always to make disciples. Over two thousand years later we can see that his strategy of disciple making was brilliant. His church has survived and flourished through the centuries because of disciple makers. The crowds have always left him in times of persecution and distress. It is disciples who have carried the precious message of salvation to generation after generation. Great spiritual men and women of God have come and gone. Gospel movements have risen and shaken each generation. Great institutions, cathedrals and churches have been built in his Name. At the end of the day—disciple making is what has moved through the generations to impart the gospel to a new day and a new people. When a church, no matter how glorious and successful it appeared to be, failed to make disciples, the next generation was lost.

Jesus made disciples.

Jesus spent time with disciples.

Disciple making is the foundation of His church.

When spectators replace disciples, disciple making gets lost in the crowd.

When numbers measures success, the importance of disciple making gets lost.

A serious student of the Bible knows that disciple making was our Lord's method for preparing the future leaders of his church. His last command to his church was, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19 NKJV). This is not a suggestion or an option. It is a command. In this passage called, "The Great Commission," the active verb is "make" disciples. Jesus is commanding us, "As you are going, make disciples."

Jesus Could Draw the Crowds

When it came to the ability to draw and keep a crowd Jesus had the power. He could heal every kind of sickness, have a miracle food program and meet every felt need the crowd had. Yet, he did not. His attention was on disciple making. He called for a deeper commitment than the crowd or the religious people were willing to give. Over and over he said, "Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38 NIV).

When a rich man came to Jesus seeking eternal life, the call was clear, "Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me'" (Mark 10: 21 NIV). The cost of following Jesus was total commitment. Jesus left him no excuse for not becoming a disciple. "Go, sell everything you have." Who would say that today? "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:37 NKJV).

Most leaders of churches are worried about how many will be in attendance next Sunday. I believe our concern should be about the quality of disciples we are making.

"The word 'DISCIPLE' occurs 269 times in the New Testament. 'Christian' is found three times and was first introduced to refer precisely to disciples of Jesus—in a situation where it was no longer possible to regard them as a sect of the Jews (Acts 11:26). The New Testament is a book about disciples, by disciples, and for disciples of Jesus Christ." (Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*)

As a pastor facing all the challenges that the religious world parades as success for the church, I must always be reminded that Jesus was a disciple maker. He did not leave behind a coliseum, a temple or a headquarters for his movement. Jesus left disciples. He left them with no facilities, no money and no reputation. He left them with a command. "As you go, make disciples."

Again, quoting Professor Dallas Willard from his book, *The Great Omission*,

"The Master said, to his disciples, 'make disciples.' We have no other God—appointed business but this, and we must allow all else to fall away if it will."

Are we doing that? Has the church again succumbed to crowd gathering instead of disciple making? Disciple makers have always been on the outside of the religious circles. The religious always want the cathedrals and the soft sell programs. While disciple makers, like their Master, have

chosen to walk another path.

In the classic book about disciple making, "*The Master Plan of Evangelism*," Robert Coleman writes,

"We should not expect a great number to begin with, nor should we desire it. The best work is always done with a few. Better to give a year or so to one or two men who learn what it means to conquer for Christ than to spend a lifetime with a congregation just keeping the program going."

The pattern of disciple making Jesus left to us is still relevant. It involved the individual mentoring by Christ within the context of the group, which was to become the church that he was building. The command he gave us to make disciples stands until the Master returns.

If we are not making disciples then what are we doing? So the question is, will you be a disciple maker?

Chapter 3



FOLLOWING

“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”

Matthew 4:19, NKJV

There are two important words that are the essence of disciple making. One is, “Follow” and the other is “Example.” To be a disciple maker you have to have, “Followers” and you must be an, “Example” to them. “Follow me,” Jesus said to the men he chose to be his disciples. He was saying, “Come after me, walk with me, be like me.” This is the very heart of the gospel and disciple making.

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me” (2 Timothy 3:10-11 NKJV). Timothy knew a lot about Paul. He knew Paul’s attitude toward people and how he treated others. Paul lived what he preached. Timothy had seen, observed and followed Paul first hand. Timothy observed all of that because discipleship is following another person. I know that this challenges the thinking and the attitude of some. I have heard leaders say, “Don’t follow me” and others say, “I will never follow a person.”

Someone is Following You

The powerful dynamic of disciple making is that the Christian life and ministry must be modeled for it to be known and understood. “And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe” (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 NKJV).

“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us” (2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 NKJV).

Robert Coleman wrote in his classic book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, “The world is desperately seeking someone to follow. That they will follow someone is certain, but will he be a man who knows the way of Christ, or will he be one like himself leading them only on into greater darkness? This is the decisive question of our plan of life. The relevance of all that we do waits upon its verdict, and in turn, the destiny of the multitudes hangs in the balance.”

Every One Of Us is Making Disciples Good or Bad

In *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*, David Platt wrote,

“Any Christian can do this. You don’t need to have inordinate skill or unusual abilities to make disciples. You don’t need to be a successful pastor or a charismatic leader to make disciples. You don’t need to be a great communicator or an innovative thinker to make disciples. That’s why Jesus says every Christian must do this.”

The teaching and the life of Jesus are to be embraced and repeated by everyone who follows Jesus. By living and demonstrating them we become a living example of the truth.

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith,” (Hebrews 13:7 NIV). You need to know whom you are following and the passing of time is the only way you will know the “*outcome*.”

“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern” (Philippians 3:17 NKJV). Here, Paul is making a claim upon their spiritual lives that was to supersede the current church fads, and the floods of doctrine that they heard continually. He is saying that you know my conduct, life and my example and you don’t know all these voices you are hearing. Like all truth in the Scriptures there is a tension between two points. Paul makes it clear in other places, “That does not mean we want to tell you exactly how to put your faith into practice. We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy as you stand firm in your faith” (2 Corinthians 1:24 NLT). The Message Bible brings it out this way, “We’re not in charge of how you live out the faith, looking over your shoulders, suspiciously critical. We’re partners, working alongside you, joyfully expectant. I know that you stand by your own faith, not by ours” (2 Corinthians 1:24 MSG).

So being an example like everything else in disciple making is to help the disciples to find and live out their faith.

I have been involved in disciple making for over thirty-five years. Those in Praise Chapel know who and what they are following. If we were to start acting weird or demanding unscriptural loyalties, then don’t follow. Otherwise, Paul makes it clear, “The things you have learned, seen and heard in me, follow.” The questions to ask are, “What is this producing?” and “What is going to be the end result?”

Spiritual leadership is not about the fact that we can gather disciples around us. Leadership is about being that man or woman of God disciples will follow. Discipleship is following another person.

Chapter 4



EXAMPLESHIP

“Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ‘The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the Scriptures. So practice and obey whatever they say to you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach.’”

Matthew 23:1-4 NLT

Exampleship will make or break what you are doing. The very principle of disciple making demands a lifestyle of spiritual disciplines. Most movie stars, sports stars and even politicians do not like to live up to any type of example. They want the benefits of fame without the responsibility of living a responsible lifestyle. Jesus is making it clear that if you are going to follow him then you have a responsibility to not just believe the gospel, but also to live the gospel.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1 NIV). What prompted the question? Here was a man who had already given up everything to follow Jesus. He recognized there was something uniquely powerful about Jesus and that there was a connection between how Jesus prayed and the power that flowed through Him. This man caught it because he saw it lived out.

A Track Record is Important in Disciple Making

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them” (2 Timothy 3:14 NKJV). Paul is saying that I have been an example to you, therefore, my conduct must be followed. We will never outgrow this principle. There will never be a time to stop being an example.

Those of us who lead are responsible to set an example and to examine those who are following. The story of Elijah and Elisha is an example of disciple making. Elijah tested the commitment of Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has told me to go to Bethel,” Elijah said. “I will not leave you,” replied Elisha. When they arrived at Bethel, Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” Again Elisha said, “I will not leave you.” At Jericho Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” Again Elisha said, “I will not leave you.” Each step was a test of Elisha’s commitment (2 Kings 2). We never outgrow the need to be an example. We also never outgrow the need to follow an example.

Every Paul Needs a Timothy; Every Timothy Needs a Paul

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:12-16 NKJV). This is a challenge to all young leaders that they are to personally be a pattern, and an example that can shape the lives of others.

Good leaders are always looking to grow. But growing as a leader means growing as a person. Too many would-be leaders are saying, “Teach me how to preach. Give me a formula.” There is great demand for, “church in a box.” There are principles to be learned and skills that can be mastered. But their importance pales in comparison with the things that God is looking for like, character, integrity, and a consistent lifestyle.

Christian leadership is about being an example for others to follow. “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous” (1 John 3:7 NKJV). Simply having the right words and contemporary messages is not Christian leadership. The ability to gather a crowd is not what Jesus was about.

We Minister What We Are

Disciple making is more than what we say. Lasting impact comes from who we are and what we do. Wherever you serve, you are called to be an example. “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans” (1 Thessalonians 2:14 NKJV).

Individuals pattern themselves after leaders.

Churches pattern themselves after churches.

If you are leading a small group Bible study, the greatest importance is not so much that you are an outstanding teacher. What example are the people seeing when they are with you?

If you are a worship leader or a part of a worship team, it is not just about that you can sing or play skillfully. What kind of an example are you to the team and those you are leading in worship? This applies to every area of the Christian life. You want to do a check-up on your walk with God? Then pause for a few moments right now and ask yourself, “What kind of an example am I?”

Paul said, “We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry” (2 Corinthians 6:3 NLT).

Children learn to socialize through teaching that is reinforced by rewards and punishments. The real teaching comes through the example of the parents, siblings and friends. A child is most likely to do what a parent does. People learn far more by what we do than what we say. Think about the patterns you have had in your life and the influence they have had upon you. Where would you be if

you had no example? You read the Bible and believe it but then how do you express your Christianity in your daily life? You need living examples.

A Breakdown in Exampleship is Disastrous

“Another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10 NIV). Where the role model is lost, the demonstration of truth is also lost. When that happens destiny and vision cease to be transferred to the next generation.

Gideon captured two enemies and instructed his son Jether to kill them, “But Jether did not draw his sword, for he was only a boy and was afraid. Then Zebah and Zalmunna said to Gideon, ‘Don’t ask a boy to do a man’s job! Do it yourself!’ So Gideon killed them both and took the royal ornaments from the necks of their camels” (Judges 8:20-21 NLT). Gideon found out that you couldn’t delegate to an heir what you are not willing to do yourself.

It Takes Courage to be an Example

It is much easier to live by excuses than to rise to the standard that is needed to live as an example. Realize that,

“Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives...” (2 Corinthians 2:3 MSG).

Take the challenge, live a life 24/7 that shows the world Christ. Be that example someone needs today, and you are on the road toward disciple making.

Chapter 5



CREDIBILITY

“Dead flies will cause even a bottle of perfume to stink! Yes, an ounce of foolishness can outweigh a pound of wisdom and honor.”

Ecclesiastes 10:1 NLT

Disciple making carries with it some important responsibilities, especially maintaining the respect of those we lead. If credibility is lost so is the opportunity to make disciples. As a Christ follower, a pastor or any leader, your entire ministry and destiny is linked to your creditability. If you mess up in an area that affects your credibility with the church, leadership or fellow workers, it could very well cost you everything. People listen to what they see more than to what they hear.

Dealing with the inconsistency of people who say one thing and do another is always a challenge. People will say anything, thinking that it is better to lie and cover up than to “face up” to the truth.

Our Life is the Sermon We Are Constantly Preaching

Trust and confidence are very fragile and once lost or damaged they are almost impossible to restore. Martin Luther made a comment about those in leadership, “In ministers nothing is seen more easily or more quickly than their faults.” He was talking about the inconsistencies in the lifestyle or character of a leader, a breakdown in personal discipline, unwise decisions, a lack of discretion, or misuse of money. A spiritual leader may have one hundred virtues yet they can all be discredited by a single defect. All of these things can undermine and damage the credibility of a disciple maker.

Remember, nothing that you can say will repair creditability. Your actions are what count the most. To be a disciple maker you must understand the importance of what you do over what you say. The Adam Clark Commentary says, “A foolish act ruins the character of him who has the reputation of being wise and good. At an unguarded moment how many have tarnished their reputation which they were many years in building.”

The Bible gives us many stories of leaders who lost their credibility. King David had great blessing and favor of God upon his life. His affair with Bathsheba damaged his credibility, his family, and almost ruined the kingdom. The consequences of the actions of one night were with him for the rest of his life.

The Consequences of Your Actions Reach Far Beyond You

King Jehoshaphat had been responsible for restoring the spirit of revival and the truths of God to the land. He was drawn into an ungodly alliance with Ahab and this ungodly relationship ruined his credibility. “Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him. ‘Why should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?’ he asked the king. ‘What you have done has brought the Lord’s anger against you’” (2 Chronicles 19:2 NLT). Because of this alliance, an unwise decision, and his failure to think through the consequences of his actions, his leadership was damaged. “A little yeast spreads quickly through the whole batch of dough!” (Galatians 5:9 NLT).

“Quick! Catch all the little foxes before they ruin the vineyard of your love, for the grapevines are all in blossom” (Song of Solomon 2:15 NLT).

Inconsistencies in character, breakdowns in personal discipline, and areas of life where we make unwise decisions cost and damage creditability. The consequences of your actions reach far beyond you. The impact of what you do affects the lives of other people, particularly those you disciple. That is the nature of leadership. What you do has impact beyond what you can understand.

The failure, is not to act in accordance to the position God has given to someone in ministry. When we fail to act according to that position, it creates a crisis in the people to whom we are ministering that will not be resolved easily. Do not think you can do whatever you want and then talk your way out of the consequences

Stupid is as Stupid Does

I don’t use the word stupid very often, but it is appropriate here. Many people lose their credibility by simply being stupid. In some versions of the Bible this is called, “folly.” It means, “A lack of good sense or sound judgment.” It is failure to think through the consequences of an action before it occurs. In plain English, it is, being stupid. More people have ruined their credibility by just stupid mistakes, actions or words. One failure, can overshadow all the good accomplishments of a leader.

Most anyone can look back on life or watch young workers and realize that much of the difficulties we face in the ministry and church planting are the result of problems of our own creation, the results of a little folly, not using common sense and a little foresight. If we find ourselves with problems we want to blame God. We say, “I prayed, why didn’t God help me?” While a little planning, foresight and wisdom would have been the solution. Christian leadership cannot entertain folly.

Your personal credibility affects a number of areas, your family, the disciples in church, and the people you work with. It affects your brethren in the ministry and it has an impact on your leadership. All of these are directly affected by the example you set.

Mahatma Gandhi was one of the most respected leaders of modern history, not only for his life, but also his ideals and his message to the people. Although Hindu, Gandhi had a very close connection with Christianity and admired Jesus very much, often quoting his favorite passage from the Book of Matthew, the Sermon on the Mount. When the missionary E. Stanley Jones met with Gandhi he asked him, “Mr. Gandhi, though you quote the words of Christ often, why is that you reject becoming his follower?” Gandhi replied, “Oh, I don’t reject Christ. I love Christ. It’s just that so many of you Christians are so unlike Christ. If Christians would live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christians.”

Chapter 6



KNOWLEDGE

“For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:22-23 NKJV

Quoting Professor Dallas Willard again from his book, *The Great Omission*, “A disciple is a learner, a student, an apprentice—a practitioner, even if only a beginner.” This is more than classroom information. It refers to being in relationship to a more mature instructor for the shaping of our lives. It is through disciple making, that we shape another person for God. Through disciple making we can influence lives, doctrines, values and morals.

We are disciple makers. We train our church planters, pastors and leaders, within our local churches. This is not because we are against education; on the contrary, we encourage education and especially lifelong learning. Years ago we learned that disciples are not made in the classroom.

The Knowledge Question

Paul writes, “But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:23 NKJV). The message Paul and the credibility of the people in Corinth to preach was being challenged by the religious community. Some wanted to bring them into religious debate, while others mocked them, saying they were ignorant and what they preached was foolishness.

The Corinthian church was birthed in revival. They had dynamic salvations, changed lives and a move of the Spirit of God. Paul writes to them and reminds them of what they were like before they were saved. “There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you” (1 Corinthians 6:11 NLT). Paul is saying that some of them were fornicators, thieves, drunkards and swindlers, who began to serve the Lord and to minister. These ex-sinners began to preach in Corinth and began facing challenges to their experience, their faith and message.

Paul was not anti-education. He instructed Timothy to, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV). Jesus was a teacher and a preacher. “Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities” (Matthew 11:1 NKJV). To lead the people of God, pastors and teachers must grow in knowledge. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6 NKJV).

Pride of Superior Knowledge

A problem arises when we want to gain knowledge to make us superior to others. The Corinthian church was a move of God, now this opposition is coming from these religious communities who felt they were superior. Paul was not threatened by human knowledge. He wrote, “It’s written, I’ll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I’ll expose so-called experts as crackpots. So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn’t God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb preaching, of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.” (1 Corinthians 1:19-21 MSG).

When Peter and John were being interrogated by the religious leaders after the healing of a crippled man who begged at the Temple gate, Luke wrote, “They couldn’t take their eyes off them—Peter and John standing there so confident, so sure of themselves! Their fascination deepened when they realized these two were laymen with no training in Scripture or formal education. They recognized them as companions of Jesus” (Acts 4:13 MSG). The religious community looked down on them and dismissed them because they did not have the proper education.

A Disciple Maker can be Intimidated by the Intellectuals of the Day

They keep score differently in the intellectual, academic world. “What degree do you have? Where did you go to school?” Degrees do not matter in the kingdom of God. Fruit does! This is a challenge to the very root of disciple making. It is a seed that wants to get planted, and if you give into this spirit it will never be satisfied.

I would be foolish to say that we don’t need better, stronger, more capable leaders and leadership skills in the church. Every disciple, pastor and leader in the church needs to be a lifelong learner, developing leadership skills and growing in our understanding of the Word. We can learn from the academics using the teaching resources available to us, while never giving into this spirit of intellectual pride and the quest for superior religious knowledge. “Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies” (1 Corinthians 8:1 NKJV).

People today need the same message they needed when Paul made disciples,

“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power” (1

Corinthians 2:1-5 NIV).

I was driving late one night and Louis Zamperini was being interviewed on the radio about his faith in Jesus. His story is told in the New York Best Selling book, “*Unbroken*” by Laura Hillenbrand. Louis Zamperini is a former Olympic track prodigy who endured unimaginable hardship as a WWII POW. After the war, on the verge of divorce, alcoholism and a total breakdown, Zamperini was dragged by his wife to a tent in Los Angeles where Billy Graham preached. Louis heard a simple gospel message, answered the altar call, gave his life to Jesus and he was changed forever. Laura writes about what happened to Louis after that,

“When they entered the apartment, Louie went straight to his cache of liquor. It was the time of night when the need usually took hold of him, but for the first time in years, Louie had no desire to drink. He carried the bottles to the kitchen sink, opened them, and poured their contents into the drain. Then he hurried through the apartment, gathering packs of cigarettes, a secret stash of girlie magazines, everything that was part of his ruined years. He heaved it all down the trash chute... In a single, silent moment, his rage, his fear, his humiliation and helplessness, had fallen away. That morning, he believed, he was a new creation.” (*Unbroken, A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*)

As I listened to Louis, now 94 years old, share his testimony that seemed as real as if it had happened to him right then. I thought of how powerful the simple message of Jesus Christ is. The world needs this same message today. It does not have to be profound or complicated.

My friend, Billy Hall was in prison, serving nine life sentences, when he heard someone preach the gospel. Billy gave his life to Jesus and promised that if he ever got out of prison he would preach the gospel. Today Billy Hall is a missionary to the unreached people of the Afar Tribes in Ethiopia and North Africa.

Janet and I had the privilege of going to Charlotte, North Carolina to visit the Billy Graham Library. All my life Billy Graham has been an icon of Christianity, so it was an inspiring experience to read the stories and look at the pictures detailing the years of his ministry.

Charles Templeton was his good friend and a contemporary in the ministry, who in their early years of ministry was having larger meetings than Billy Graham. He quit the ministry and went to Princeton University because he came to believe that he was not educated enough to fulfill the ministry. It was at the University, studying Theology, that Charles Templeton denied his faith in God and the Word of God and became the most outspoken atheist in America. He tried to convince his friend Billy Graham that he too did not have enough education to fulfill his ministry. I have read Billy Graham’s life story many times and it seems that this was the most challenging time in his spiritual journey.

The Battle Has Not Changed

In A.D. 178, Celsus wrote, “Christians are the most vulgar and uneducated people around.” Billionaire Ted Turner said, “Christianity is for losers.” I heard that he apologized later. The same spirit that challenged the revival in Corinth challenges disciple making today. This attack always

comes to revival and to disciple making. The intensity of the enemy's resistance here should tell us something of the importance of this subject.

I have been in the ministry all my life. My grandpa and my dad were both preachers. I have traveled a long journey through the tent revivals of the 50's, the Charismatic movement of the 60's-70's and the Jesus People revival. In every revival there have been abuses, extremes and counterfeits of Biblical disciple making. Today discipleship is again coming to the forefront. Books and movements are parading discipleship because, after all, the new revival fads fail, the church continually returns to making disciples.

“Some people need to bring letters of recommendation with them or ask you to write letters of recommendation for them. The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves! Your lives are a letter written in our hearts, and everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you” (2 Corinthians 3:1-2 NLT).

Chapter 7



MOTIVATION

“To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Timothy 1:2 NIV

Of all the disciples and partners in the faith that Paul worked with, apparently Timothy was perhaps the closest to the Apostle. When Paul addressed Timothy he did not say, “My assistant or my student” but he wrote, “My own son in the faith.” This has to do with the heart.

This Scripture is a part of a letter from a spiritual father to a spiritual son. What I want you to receive here is: if you want to be a disciple maker, ask God to give you a father’s heart. I said that in my “Aha!” moment, I learned that disciple making is not something that someone can just do and keep doing. You have to have a heart for it. Paul loved Timothy and cared for him because he was his son in the faith. Paul wanted Timothy to know that he was more important to Paul than any work they were involved in.

In the letters to Timothy, Paul shows the concern of a true father’s heart, as he writes to this first time pastor who is beginning to come across problems and battle things he never dreamed of. He is not writing because Timothy is doing something wrong or because he is embarrassed by Timothy’s mistakes.

The Letters are for Reinforcement and Encouragement

In the book, *“The Remnant, Restoring the Call to Personal Integrity,”* Larry Stockstill writes,

“All church government should flow from an environment of affirmation, validation, and acceptance. Pastors and church members need spiritual fathers; whether in a denomination or in a nonaligned church. The early church did not develop a bureaucratic, hands-off oversight that only inspected properties and counted nickels and noses. They had overseers and elders who provided a mentoring structure to affirm, advise and correct, if necessary...government is the operation of seasoned spiritual fathers who develop and mentor protégés as though they were sons.”

I have seen believers wander throughout their Christian life with no direction, moving from church to church and pastor to pastor. This also happens to preachers, wandering with no direction in

ministry. I am convinced the reason is here: They have no father in the faith. There is no one willing, able or allowed to speak destiny, direction or correction to them.

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me” (1 Corinthians 4:14-16 NKJV).

Father—Disciple Maker Relationships

The Corinthian church was planted by Paul, watered by the teachings of Apollos and ministered to by Peter. The church was full of the Word and spiritual gifts. It was also a mess with factions, fornicators, carnality, disunity, dysfunction and disorder. Paul wrote to show them the way to maturity and destiny. He said, listen to me and imitate me because I am your father in the faith. I am going to speak correction, destiny, spiritual blessing and direction into your life.

The father—disciple maker is that spiritual relationship that helps to move a disciple to adult destiny in Christ. This relationship is significant in the Bible. When Elijah was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot, Elisha did not cry, my prophet, my prophet or my apostle, my apostle. He cried, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel.” There is something about the father’s heart that nurtures, cares about, disciples, releases and helps to sustain and bring fruitfulness in the kingdom of God. Spiritual fathers want to invest in people and to see them fulfill their destiny in God.

A Loving Father Will Encourage

Father in the Lord has deep meaning to the father and to the son or daughter. A natural father can enable or cripple the personality and character of a person. A loving father will encourage, serve and speak words of life over his children. Unfortunately, some fathers abuse, hit, humiliate in public, embarrass and damage a human being. Spiritual fathers also have an impact upon lives.

The father relationship in the Lord is a powerful key to helping disciples find and achieve their full potential in Christ Jesus. Leaders who do not have a father’s heart can rob people of their destiny. Paul wrote to the Philippians about Timothy;

“I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ” (Philippians 2:20-21 NLT).

When the prodigal son returned home to his father, “Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him” (Luke 15:20 NLT). You don’t see the prodigal son’s father arrogantly saying, I knew you would come back. You see a father’s heart, as he puts the family ring on his finger, shoes on his bare feet, new clothes and provisions, then has a celebration in honor of his son who has returned. Disciple making is a process that only operates out of this heart. Disciple making can only come out of a person who genuinely wants to see another person fulfill his or her destiny.

The only acceptable motivation for making disciples is obedience to God and a love for God’s people. Jesus questioned Peter three times with the question, “Do you love me?” To Peter’s affirmative answer Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep!”

You Can't Cheat in Disciple Making

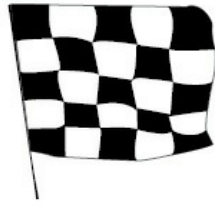
You can't fake it. Disciple making is a heart issue. It is a love issue. Self-interest, personal promotion, ambition or pride will clog the flow and connection that is required to make disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love" (John 15:9 NKJV). "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16 NIV). To be a disciple maker the necessary investments must be in others and not in self.

Monuments or Sons

"During his lifetime, Absalom had built a monument to himself in the King's Valley, for he had said, 'I have no son to carry on my name.' He named the monument after himself, and it is known as Absalom's Monument to this day" (2 Samuel 18:18, NLT).

We need to decide how our memory will be perpetuated, through monuments or sons.

Chapter 8



GOAL

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

The goal of disciple making is to produce men and women of God. It is a sincere desire to see others fulfill their destiny in God and helping them to discover the will of God for their lives. Disciple making is to bring a person into contact with God so that the individuality of his or her personality can be expressed in the will of God. The goal is maturity, being conformed to Christ-like-character. This is what we're called to reproduce. God wants to do something unique in the life of each person. This is accomplished through surrender and obedience.

There is a Personal Dimension

At the Last Passover Supper Jesus told Peter, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31-32 KJV). Peter’s response was, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.” Jesus said, ‘Peter, let me tell you something. The rooster will not crow tomorrow morning until you have denied three times that you even know me’” (Luke 22:33-34 NLT).

Jesus could have continued the conversation and tried to convince Peter the danger he was going to face. Or, Jesus could have told the other disciples to stay with Peter and to encourage him not to fail. But he didn’t, why? Some things are only learned by experience. If you are going to be a disciple maker you have to be flexible to release the disciples to be who they are without interfering. They have to be released to make their own mistakes and to own their success. When Jesus came walking on the water and Peter asked to join him, Jesus could have said, no you are not ready, you will sink. Jesus said, “come,” knowing that Peter would fail. This is disciple making in action.

Jesus saw that through his failure Peter was going to have the opportunity to let go of his self will and become a man abandoned to God. This is not something we “do” to people. Peter could have been lost in the process. But Jesus warned him ahead of time what was coming, assured him of His love and watchful concern (“I have prayed for you.”), and was there to help Peter find his focus

afterward.

After the resurrection, Jesus met the disciples by the sea where they had been fishing all night. Jesus made breakfast for them and then spoke to Peter.

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my lambs.’ Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me?’ He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Take care of my sheep.’ The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.’ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’” (John 21:15-19 NIV).

Disciple Making Involves a Surrender to the Will of God

Jesus was telling Peter that when you were young you followed your own desires, ambitions and impulses to do what you wanted to do. You developed a positive part of your personality that you do what you want. We see this in Peter throughout his disciple-making journey with Jesus.

When Jesus came to them walking on the water, “Peter called to him, ‘Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you by walking on water’” (Matthew 14:28 NLT). On the Mount of Transfiguration where the glory of Christ was shown to Peter, James and John, Peter blurted, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” (Matthew 17:4 NKJV). When the soldiers came into the Garden to take Jesus, “Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant” (John 18:10 NLT). He was impulsive and ambitious acting on his feelings. For most of his life he walked after his own will.

Jesus is Dealing With an Element of His Personality

Peter thought all he had to do in life was get a feeling and then go after it. He decided what he wanted to do and what he wanted to be in life. Anything he made up his mind to do, he did.

Jesus told him, “When you were young you did what you wanted.” He had developed this lifestyle. Now, Jesus says, “When you get old you’re going to surrender to the will of God” Peter’s calling is going to carry him against his personal will and take him into the will of God which involved circumstances that he would not desire.

“Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, ‘Lord, who among us will betray you?’ Peter asked Jesus, ‘What about him, Lord?’ Jesus replied, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You follow me’” (John 21:20-22 NLT).

Jesus quite frankly tells Peter, it is none of your business what I do with him. I work with each one

individually. You follow me! If more people would take this to heart they would not be comparing themselves with others and would be busy about the Lord's business in their own life.

The Disciple Maker is Working With God

We are helping people to discover the joys of abandoning themselves to God—and thereby discover their unique callings, gifts, and ministry. “My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you” (Galatians 4:19 AMP). Christ formed in each person is challenging beyond our understanding. This is only accomplished as God is actively at work in both the disciple maker and the disciple.

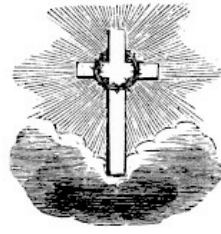
I believe the “birth pangs” Paul wrote to the Galatians about referred to his prayers for them. Paul wrote to Timothy and said, “Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers” (2 Timothy 1:3 NLT). Jesus told Peter, “I have prayed for you.” Yet, Peter was still going to fail. Was Jesus going to give up on Peter? No! When Jesus rose from the dead the Angel at the Tomb told the women who had gone there to anoint the body of Christ,

“Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died!” (Mark 16:7, NLT).

I have always loved that portion of Scripture because of how it must have made Peter feel when they brought that message. We have the same confidence because Jesus said to each of us, “And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).”

The disciple maker is working with God and that makes it work.

Chapter 9



AUTHORITY

“Don’t ever let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are on the same level as brothers and sisters. And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. And don’t let anyone call you ‘Master,’ for there is only one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant.”

Matthew 23:8-11 NLT

There were probably many Rabbis and leaders of other sects during the time of Christ. Some violated their position of authority. Jesus makes it clear that in his church spiritual leaders are never to think that they are the ultimate authority in people’s lives. That belongs to the Lord.

I always feel uncomfortable when people overuse titles. I understand when someone has labored for years in education to earn a title; it is proper to address that person with the earned title, like Doctor. That is a big difference than what Jesus is addressing here. Jesus is dealing with leaders demanding some type of submission to their authority. We are not to be called “master” or guide. We are not the one who directs people’s steps. Jesus does say, “He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.” The position of a leader-disciple maker is as a servant to help bring disciples into a relationship with God as Master and Guide.

Jesus Links Spiritual Authority with Discipleship

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’” (Matthew 28:18-19 NIV). The Bible teaches that God has delegated spiritual authority and position in the Kingdom. “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11 NIV). Leadership is necessary for disciple making to transpire.

Jesus set the example, “For he taught as one who had real authority” (Matthew 7:29 NLT). Paul understood his position; “I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But this authority is to build you up, not to tear you down” (2 Corinthians 10:8 NLT). The local church cannot escape the importance of spiritual leadership.

When Elisha took the cloak and walked to the river he did not say, where is the formula of Elijah?

“He struck the water with the cloak and cried out, ‘Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?’ Then the river divided, and Elisha went across” (2 Kings 2:14 NLT). He understood that he was not following the man for the merits of the man but he was following the God that was working in and through the man.

The Purpose of Spiritual Authority is to Lead and to Feed

The call to disciple making is not a call to human worship or to put a spiritual leader on some pedestal. Disciple making is to point beyond the man or woman to God the Father who is at work in the Gospel of Christ. If you are not pointing people to personally hear from God and to respond in obedience to God then you are not making Disciples of Christ. If you teach them to come to you for every decision, then you are abusing them. Disciple making is helping others discover for themselves what the will of God is.

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2-3 NIV). To shepherd is to teach, care for and protect God’s flock. An overseer is to observe and watch over. Spiritual authority is to serve God’s people. Peter learned this from the example of Jesus.

Disciple Making Has Nothing to do with Getting Someone to Serve a Leader

“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must become your slave. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many,’” (Matthew 20:25-28 NLT).

Spiritual leadership is a gift given by God that often operates in a serving position like, apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher. Unfortunately not everyone has a heart to serve. Some abuse their authority. Rather than use their gifts to help people they use them for self-enrichment and the abuse of their power. This has ruined many countries where leaders rose up and stripped their countries for personal gain. Spiritual leadership is not self-serving.

A Spiritual Leader Has Respect Because of Character

“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach” (1 Timothy 3:1-2 NKJV). Any position in the Kingdom of God is not for you or for your enrichment. It is authority to serve. “We were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children” (1 Thessalonians 2:7 NKJV).

“On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’” (2 Chronicles 1:7 NKJV). Solomon asked for wisdom and a heart to be able to serve God’s people. God honored his request and blessed him. Later Solomon began to oppress the people. He hoarded gold, multiplied horses, chariots and wives. His enrichment and exaltation took over.

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became King of Israel and the citizens came to him asking

for relief from the burdens Solomon had required. When Rehoboam asked the elders of Israel who had served his father what he should do, they said to lighten the load and speak kindly to the people and they will be your servants. Then he asked his friends and they said to show his authority and put heavier burdens upon the people. “He spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, ‘My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!’” (2 Chronicles 10:14 NKJV). As a result of his decision, the nation divided into two nations.

**Authority is Given to Serve and to Redeem,
Not for Punishment and Not to Rule**

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28 NKJV).

When the high council gathered to decide what to do about Jesus,

“One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said, ‘How can you be so stupid? Why should the whole nation be destroyed? Let this one man die for the people.’ This prophecy that Jesus should die for the entire nation came from Caiaphas in his position as high priest. He didn’t think of it himself; he was inspired to say it. It was a prediction that Jesus’ death would be not for Israel only, but for the gathering together of all the children of God scattered around the world” (John 11:51-52 NLT).

Caiaphas plotted to put Jesus to death. He was out of the will of God, yet he gave a prophecy. He was in the God appointed office of High Priest and with that office came an anointing.

God uses spiritual leadership to accomplish his purposes. Leadership is not a light thing. It is God’s method in the Kingdom to accomplish his task. Use it wisely.

Chapter 10



CHURCH

“Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:47 NKJV

This tells us that when people get saved they go to church. The Scripture says, “The Lord added to the church.” This speaks of becoming a part of the assembly. Salvation is about relationship with God and the community of believers. Until a disciple understands this, you cannot take them further in disciple making. It is through the church that Jesus accomplishes his purpose. If you say, “I don’t need to be a part of a church or Christian community,” then you violate the very essence of disciple making.

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ‘Well,’ they replied, ‘some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.’ Then he asked them, ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you lock on earth will be locked in heaven, and whatever you open on earth will be opened in heaven’” (Matthew 16:13-19 NLT).

This is One of the Most Important Statements Made in the Bible

It declares who Jesus Christ is and what he is doing, “I will build my church.” The church is the agent of God on the earth to establish his dominion, speaks for him, and to carry his authority. God has given dignity to the local church. Basic to the ability to be a disciple maker is the church, and not just any church, a disciple making community of believers who understand the command of Jesus to, “Go and make disciples.” We discovered this and that is why we have been fruitful in disciple making and church planting.

Jesus said, Peter, you have experienced a divine revelation. You did not learn this in school, or by talking with me, or by reading books, my Father revealed this to you. In the book, *The Kingdom Within*, John A. Sanford writes, “Such an ‘opening of one’s eyes,’ a ‘revelation,’ can never be given directly in so many words. We see inner reality only through an ‘aha!’ experience, a sudden insight

into our own being.” (*The Kingdom Within: The Inner Meanings of Jesus’ Sayings*)

For a person to become a Christian he or she must have this miracle experience of God, giving a personal revelation of who Jesus is. When a person gets saved they are changed by the power of God. Through Jesus Christ, you don’t just believe something, you become someone new, “What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT). The church is made up of people from all walks of life that have had this experience.

The Book of Acts is the History of Planting Local Churches

The Book of Acts begins with the church in the embryonic stage and follows through the expansion of these churches from town to town and nation to nation. You can argue if they were house churches, larger gatherings, a few people or masses, but it doesn’t matter. “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:10 TNIV).

Here are a few paragraphs from my book, *“The Globality Revolution,”* giving two examples of the Lord linking Paul and Cornelius into the local church:

“Saul was on his way to persecute the followers of the Way in Acts chapter nine, when Jesus appeared to him. Right after he meets Jesus, he is sent to Ananias who is instructed by the Holy Spirit to pray for Paul and to baptize him. Later Paul became a part of the Antioch church. God did not leave him alone because Paul had a few things to learn from the family.

“In Acts chapter ten, a Gentile man named Cornelius had an encounter with an angel of God who instructed him to send for Peter. Why did he need Peter when he had an angel talking to him? Peter baptized him and introduces him to the family of God. Water baptism not only identifies us with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, but it also links the believer into the family. This is to identify and bring believers into the community of the family and under the discipline and the leadership the family of God provides.

“One of the great tragedies in our generation is the unwed father who births children outside the family situation. When birthing circumvents or goes outside the family, there is great impairment to the individuals. It is the same in the family of God.” (*The Globality Revolution, The Gospel to Everyone, Everywhere by Anyone*)

It is very important in the life of a disciple of Jesus that relationship be established and maintained with a local church. “You also, like lively stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable through God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5 NIV). This is speaking collective. We are “being built,” in relationship to the whole body. To build God’s house, and to be built into God’s house, means being in relationship with the rest of the house. “You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-20 TNIV).

God does not give us liberty to be unattached from the body, which is his local church. “From him

the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16 TNIV).

The Church is the Assembly

Our word used in the New Testament for church comes from the Greek word “ekklesia.” In pre-Christian use it referred to, any gathering of a group of people. In classical Greek the word “ekklesia” meant, an assembly of citizens summoned by the crier, it was a political term. Jesus is the King, so the Bible uses the term “ekklesia” for a good reason. In the New Testament it means to “call out and to call together.” Paul used the word more frequently than any other New Testament writer and he clearly understood the word to mean, an assembly or congregation who met locally together. The New Testament believers met in rented halls and in the homes of people. They had elders or bishops, who were called of God and given the oversight of the local or individual congregations.

The Church is Local

“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:2-3 NKJV). Paul is talking about the assembled church at Corinth. The church is not invisible, it is real people assembled together in a real place. Paul wrote, “I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV). This clearly speaks of attendance in the house of God, the church. We are only the church as we assemble.

A Disciple is Made as He or She is Actively Involved in the Life and Ministries of a Local Church

Jesus brought his disciples into relationship with each other and into ministry experiences. They did not always get along. They argued about who would be the leader of the group (Mark 9:34). They responded with hostility to people (Luke 9:54). The disciple making process demanded that they learn to work together and to care about people who were not like them. They could not leave the group and join another, they had to work it out. In the local church a disciple learns to minister and experiences ministry in action.

I watch would be disciples leave their church when they have some type of conflict or the church does not meet their expectations in some area. I have had many disciples that I felt God could use, but they lost out because they left. The truth is, we were getting to areas where they needed to develop and change, but rather than change they preferred to leave.

Disciples are made in serving together in the local church. “The greatest among you must be a servant” (Matthew 23:11 NLT).

“Indeed, the church is God’s plan for multiplying the gospel to all nations, and where Christians lock arms with one another in communities of faith pursuing a radical Savior, the very gates of hell cannot stop the spread of God’s glory. So this is the final step in the Radical Experiment: commit

your life to a community of believers that is intentionally multiplying the gospel by making disciples. (David Platt, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*)

Pastor Greg Johnson of, *The Lighthouse*, in Gallup, New Mexico sent me his story,

“The role of the ‘gathered assembly/ekklesia’ in the development of the disciple is far more important than we might be led to believe. In looking back to the earliest days of my own discipleship, it struck me that long before the church I was a part of began having any formal discipleship process like classes, seminars or Bible conferences, we were being discipled primarily in the church services. The sermons, and Sunday school classes were our instruction times and impartation times. We had outreach events, a music concert and drama event every Friday and Saturday night. The town I lived in has a City Square around the Courthouse where we witnessed and did various types of events, concerts, movies and dramas. This was our involvement times.

“We were being discipled before we ever understood what was happening or used the term very much. It was the natural outflow of an authentic revival. Get saved, get in church, get going! Church to us was the single most important activity of our lives; it took precedent over everything else in our schedules and priorities. I understand how this can be extrapolated into something unhealthy, but in the early days it was the backbone of what God was doing. Church/assembling was a priority, not some ‘take-it-or-leave-it’ or ‘if it’s convenient’ thing.

“As I look back, it is clear that some of the most profound and life changing encounters of my life happened in church. I was saved in church, filled with the Holy Spirit in church, set free from numerous bondages in church, called to the ministry in a church service and later launched into the ministry in a church service.

“I read an article in Christianity Today that in essence said; In recent years the church has taken to emphasizing the importance of our “personal commitment to Christ” and rightly so; but we have at the same time ‘failed to communicate the necessity of transformative habits set within communities of renewal empowered by God’s spirit,’ (Christianity Today, July 2011 page 48).

“When correcting and over-emphasis of ‘church commitment,’ we swing to an over emphasis of “personal one on one” discipleship. Jesus was seldom ‘one on one’ with his disciples! They were ‘together/gathered’ most of the time. Much of the ‘impartation’ of discipleship was taking place while Jesus was teaching and they were listening/watching. I can remember very little ‘one on one’ time with my Pastor before I was launched into the ministry. The bulk of my discipleship occurred in the company of the saints. The article in Christianity Today said: ‘As individuals, we have been saved for life-giving relationships within Kingdom of God communities, not merely privatized walks with Jesus.’

“After the gospels and Acts, the words, disciple and disciples, do not appear again in the New Testament; the emphasis is on the ‘church.’ In the epistles there seems to be a transition from the “being with Jesus one-on-one” to being with ‘one another’ in his family. The church is the dominant theme, this goes along with what Jesus told the disciples, ‘I will build my church.’”

Chapter 11



IMPARTATION

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.”

Romans 1:11 NKJV

Paul was saying that they lacked a spiritual dimension and when he got there he was going to impart (transfer) it to them. The idea here, is that unless Paul came, they couldn't get it. There is a dimension of the Spirit that you can't get from CDs, books, television, radio, or letters. One of the first lessons I learned about disciple making was, truth is more caught than taught and you must be where it is to catch it.

“So affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJ). Paul is talking about spiritual impartation. This is a spiritual dynamic of the Kingdom of God. Not just information. It involves a spiritual impartation when we see or experience God at work through another human being.

Truth is More Caught Than Taught

After the resurrection Jesus met the disciples, “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:21-22 NIV). This is not a method or a system. It is the conferring of spiritual grace.

In the book of Second Kings, a group of men from the school of the prophets were following Elijah and Elisha around. They had a program and religious knowledge. They were studying deep spiritual things, they knew Elijah was going to be taken by God, they just didn't know when. They had revelation and their timing was close. Yet, when it happened there was no impartation to them. That is the problem of spectator Christianity.

You Have to be Around to Catch It

“When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?’ ‘Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,’ Elisha replied. ‘You have asked a difficult thing,’ Elijah said, ‘yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not’” (2 Kings 2:9-10 NIV). He had to be there to receive the impartation.

Jesus confronted Saul on the road to Damascus and placed his Spirit within him making him the Apostle Paul. Those who followed and worked with Paul were disciplined by him. Timothy and Titus were of Paul's spirit. They were disciplined by him, taught by him, and inspired by him.

There is a dimension beyond flesh and bones, ability, program, music, or anything we can do. It is the Spirit that makes the concepts, programs, truths and revelations come to life. This is the essence that makes disciple making work.

“Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it” (Numbers 14:24 NIV). The difference between Caleb and those who perished in the wilderness was his spirit.

More Than a Program

God's Spirit was upon Moses in a special way for what God was doing in that particular place and time. When Moses needed more leadership to help him, God took the Spirit that was upon Moses and passed it to seventy elders (Numbers 11). It was the Spirit that made the difference in their lives.

Disciple making is much more than a program. It is about a relationship with Jesus Christ that is beyond human dimension.

It is our relationship with Jesus that transforms our character and imparts Divine life. We can watch it happen. We understand that it is Divine impartation, but how it happens we don't know. It's like that “Aha!” experience.

Disciple making is transference of spirit, anointing and grace from one to another. In the Bible, destiny, direction, anointing, maturity and ministry is transferred. Disciple making is not a method or a program, not even the teaching and preaching of the word of God, although these are involved. It is the transmission of life to life.

Chapter 12



JUDAS

“The betrayer had worked out a sign with them: ‘The one I kiss, that’s the one—seize him.’ He went straight to Jesus, greeted him, ‘How are you, Rabbi?’ and kissed him.”

Matthew 26:48 MSG

The history of the world is filled with traitors and betrayers. In life we all have our experiences with these types of people. Teenagers experience this as they mature and work through relationships. The one they think is my, “best friend,” steals their girlfriend or boyfriend or betrays them in some other way to gain position or acceptance in the peer group. In business many have experienced the pain of betrayal. Jesus was no different. In his closest associates there was a betrayer, one of his disciples.

I wish I could tell you that every person you disciple would have a right heart and become a man or woman of God. I dare to write, that as you give your life to disciple making there will be, Judas(s). If you understand this, and learn to process betrayal the way Jesus did, then you are on the path to a fruitful ministry of disciple making.

Of all the people in the Bible, Judas stands out as the betrayer. John wrote, “For Jesus knew from the beginning who didn’t believe, and he knew who would betray him” (John 6:64 NLT).

Why did Jesus Choose Judas to be a Disciple?

I understand the fulfillment of prophecy that came through Judas, but why a betrayer? Why a disciple? Jesus was not hiding. He ministered publicly. Any number of people could have told the soldiers where they might find Jesus during the Passover celebration. Jesus told the mob, “Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day” (Luke 22:53 NLT). Did a disciple have to lead them to Jesus? Did Judas have to point him out with a friendship kiss?

Jesus personally chose Judas to be one of his disciples. “And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.” (Mark 3:14 ESV). Judas was one of the twelve men. In the working out of God’s plan of salvation, Judas apparently needed to be in the equation, but why?

Jesus loved Judas just as much as he did any of the disciples. “Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He now showed the disciples the full extent of his love. It was time for supper, and the Devil had already enticed Judas,

son of Simon Iscariot, to carry out his plan to betray Jesus” (John 13:1-2 NLT). Jesus welcomed Judas into the house to celebrate the Passover. He washed the feet of Judas, knowing he was going to betray him. Jesus even made Judas the guest of honor. John asked Jesus who was going to betray him and, “He told me, ‘It is the one I honor by giving the bread dipped in the sauce.’ And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot” (John 13:26 TLB). Jesus is not manipulating the situation. He is not putting on some show. He was showing the disciples (including Judas), the full extent of his love.

The Covenant of Salt

During the Passover meal it is customary to dip bitter herbs into salted water. Jesus handed Judas the unleavened bread which he had dipped in the bitter herbs, and said to him. “What you are about to do, do quickly!” (John 13:27 NIV). Salt is important in the Bible and it was important in ancient culture; it is still important in parts of the Middle East and India.

When President Sadat of Egypt greeted Prime Minister Begin of Israel, as he set foot on Egyptian soil, the two men stopped to take bread and salt together. They entered into a covenant of protection. Sadat was saying, by his actions, that Begin would be safe while visiting Egypt and that he was willing to guarantee that safety with his life. It was a pledge of loyalty and protection.

When Jesus honored Judas at the Passover meal it was a sign of friendship and covenant relationship. Perhaps Jesus was saying to Judas, if you want out of this, you can, I am in covenant with you. I will never do anything to accuse or to assault you. Judas, you may be disloyal to me, but I will still be loyal to you.

The Garden Experience

The night of his betrayal, Jesus went with his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane and here we see the human side of Jesus more than any place in Scriptures. “Taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to show grief and distress of mind and was deeply depressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow’” (Matthew 26:37-38 MSG).

Here is one of the places where the Scripture about Jesus is fulfilled, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15 ESV).

Jesus struggled with the reality of the cross. “He threw Himself upon the ground on His face and prayed saying, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will and desire’” (Matthew 26:38-39 AMP).

In this place of grief and despondency Jesus touched heaven, “Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him” (Luke 22:43 NLT). Jesus came out of the Garden with strength to face the cross. As Jesus comes out of this strengthening experience with the angel of God - Judas is waiting. The betrayer is there with a mob. This is how life is. You have a great victory then Judas. You feel revival and strength, then Judas. Why was Judas necessary? Perhaps it was Judas, bringing the soldiers at that precise time when Jesus had prayed and received the strength to face the cross, that pushed him on to fulfill the purpose of the Father.

Like Jesus, each of us will experience betrayal in disciple making. Probably, the highest number of people leave the ministry and the church because of betrayal. Seeing how Jesus responded to betrayal can help us to process our own experiences. Take a moment, and make a list of all the people who have had the greatest impact upon your life. I am sure the list is filled with people who have influenced you in positive ways. But, what about Judas? What about the ones who betrayed you? The ones who hurt you the most? The answer to that may be determined by how you process betrayal.

We Don't Know What We are Full of Until a Judas Shows Up

There are certain things in your life that will never change unless you go to the cross, and without Judas most of us will never go to Gethsemane. The greater impact for your good is perhaps the one(s) who have hurt you the most in life. We think Judas is a curse, but in reality, Judas may be a God-sent blessing to help develop Christ likeness in us. It is Judas who compels you to the Garden and to the cross.

When there is a hurt or betrayal between you and another person, what are your thoughts? Are they thoughts of restoration or vindication? Do you insist on proving yourself right and the other wrong? Do you demand justice? At the moment of hurt or when you still carry the grief, justice would feel good. When I have been betrayed, I have been ready to fight. When I have been lied against, I have wanted to scream out the truth to prove them wrong about me. To the natural man that would feel good.

Sure, Jesus washed the feet of Judas and made a covenant with him, but us? We want to beat him over the head with a baseball bat! We are more like Peter; We want to cut off the ear of those betrayers. Or like the Sons of Thunder, who wanted to call fire down from heaven on a town, "When James and John heard about it, they said to Jesus, 'Lord, should we order down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But Jesus turned and rebuked them" (Luke 9:54-55 NLT). Of course he rebuked them and he rebukes us today when we respond to betrayal the same way.

Everyone Needs a Judas

Is this possible? Can you and I truly love Judas? Can we show kindness where we have been hurt? Can we give love where we have been betrayed? Or is this something that only Jesus could do? In the context of Judas leaving to betray him Jesus said to the disciples,

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35 NKJV).

It is the context that Jesus is saying this that makes it so powerful. The nature of the disciples would have been to attack Judas but Jesus says to love one another. How we respond to Judas will be a large determination in the outcome of our life and ministry.

Nothing Hurts More Than Being Shot by Friendly Fire

There is a place in God that you and I will never attain until we receive our enemy, "Love your

enemy,' Jesus said. 'Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it' (1 Peter 3:9 NLT). By giving a blessing, I will inherit a blessing. There is a reward for giving grace to Judas. Jesus is saying that we really don't reap from doing good to people who do good to us. "If you love those who love you what credit to you?" But when you love your enemies Jesus says, "Reward will be great." But best of all Jesus says, "You will be sons of the Most High." (Luke 6:35 NIV)

Our nature is to cry out, "*That is not fair!*" It's so true. Life is not fair! It was not fair for the Son of God to die on a cross. God does not promise life will be fair. How we respond to the lack of "fairness" in life will determine a lot about who we become in Christ.

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17 NKJV). I don't want the law applied to my life. There is no love in law. I want grace and truth, which came through Jesus. The law demands what is right or fair. The woman caught in adultery was glad she faced Jesus who responded with grace and truth, rather than those who followed the law coming after her with a handful of stones (John 8).

When We Demand what is Right or Fair in Life We Receive from the Same Legal System

"For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you" (James 2:13 NLT). If you want justice for the betrayals and wrongs done to you, then the same law applies to you. You cannot ask for mercy for yourself while asking the Father to give them what they deserve.

There were many in the Bible who made the charge "that is not fair." One was the older son in the story of the Prodigal.

"The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, 'All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have'" (Luke 15:28-30 NLT).

Dad, this is not fair. Your love is not fair.

He was right!

The Father's love was based on grace, which is beyond what we can comprehend.

Grace is so extreme; Jesus had to go to the cross because of grace. The elder son lived by law where everything he did was based on what is fair and right. He followed the rules working to please the father. The younger son blew it and sinned but he came back on the basis of grace and fell into the arms of a loving father.

Here is one son pointing a finger saying "That is not fair!" The other son is receiving kisses, hugs, a robe, a ring, shoes and a celebration party. Did he deserve this? No! Was it fair? No! He was a Judas. He had betrayed everything the father believed in. He embarrassed the father in the community.

The Father's response was pure love and grace. Just as Jesus responded to Judas and as God

responds to you and I when we come to Him seeking grace and forgiveness.

There are Two Spiritual Realms You Can Live In One is Grace, the Other is Law

God lives and moves in the realm of grace. Satan lives in the arena of law. You can be a Christian and still walk in law. You can even move back and forth between law and grace. Too many Christians live in the realm of law and by doing so they continue to reap the fruit of law.

We want grace for us. But then we can easily be like the elder son and take the position that demands justice for those who betray us. Mercy for me - justice for you, leads down a path you don't want to go. It opens the opportunity for the devil to bear down upon the law and bring justice rather than allowing grace and truth to prevail. When you want justice for the wrongs done to you, then the same law applies to you. Demand what is right and fair and you move into a legal system that demand payment from you also. My question to you is, where do you want to live? "As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; As he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him" (Psalm 109:17 NKJV).

Your Future Depends Upon What You Demand or Release

Jesus came with grace and truth, "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17 NKJV). That is a much higher position than the law Moses came with. Satan can't move in the realm of grace and truth. Also, God won't move in Satan's area of accusations and lies, in other words, law.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" (Galatians 3:13 NKJV).

If you want to continue living in the realm of law then Satan will see that you get it. If you want to receive the inheritance, you must live in grace. Jesus said, "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?" (Matthew 7:3 NLT).

When you are looking to judge another you defile yourself. It affects your motives for ministry, your relationships, attitude and speech, because you have left the grace of God and moved into law. You then give the enemy opportunity to steal, kill and to destroy. You begin to lose that clean feeling of the love from God because you are defiled. Then you find yourself connected to people who think like you. They have the same attitudes and complaints. It's the elder son's attitude; life is not fair.

"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down'" (Revelation 12:10 NKJV).

When we move into the realm of accusing we come into agreement with Satan. You give the Devil the right of passage anywhere you have an accusing thought toward another person. When you cry out for justice then you come into Satan's courtroom of legalism. "And 'don't sin by letting anger gain control over you.' Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil" (Ephesians 4:26-27 NLT).

Go ahead, give the devil the key to your front door. Be critical, demand that you are justified, attack that speck of dust in another's eye—walk away for the path of grace.

How are we ever going to feel like sons of God if we live in Satan's territory? Maybe there are people you would like to get even with, but, you can't afford to live in that realm. Evil for evil, anger for anger, hurt for hurt? There is no revival and no life there. The elder son never entered the father's house. He never enjoyed the celebration. He stayed outside complaining. If you choose to live that way, you, too, may never enter into all the Father has prepared for you.

There is a Reward for Treating Judas With Grace

Your response to Judas is not about, not giving betrayers what they deserve. It is about, you getting what you deserve. Your future depends upon what you demand or release. You determine where you will live now and in the future. You set your effectiveness in ministry and life. How? Giving a gift the betrayer does not deserve.

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25 NKJV).

Grace causes you to rise above where the average person lives. In fact, where the average Christian lives. This is where the blessings and inheritance of God are for you, as a disciple maker.

Chapter 13



LEGACY

“God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I have constantly told others about the wonderful things you do. Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me.”

Psalms 71:17-18 NLT

David was showing great wisdom when he asked God to, “Let me proclaim your power to this new generation.” He is old, yet he recognizes the challenge and the help that he needs to pass on his legacy. This has never been an easy task. It is challenging both to the old and to the new generations. It is just as difficult for the new generation to receive from the old, as it is for the old generation to adapt to the methods necessary to connect to the new generation.

One generation enters into a covenant with God. That covenant carries with it the promise of future blessings. The goal is that the second generation goes deeper into covenant with God and lives in even greater promises. The promises God gave to Abraham were to be fulfilled through his children’s children. “But God gave him no inheritance here, not even one square foot of land. God did promise, however, that eventually the whole country would belong to Abraham and his descendants—though he had no children yet” (Acts 7:5 NLT).

When vision and faith can be sustained through more than one generation, the power and magnitude of the Kingdom vision grows in greater dimensions.

It is only here that we can make sense of this life. I understand more of why Abraham journeyed and lived in tents when I look at his life generationally. I understand that my life is more than my desires, successes, hurts, or happiness. I am a part of the great plan of God that has been working through the millenniums of time and eternity.

When Legacy is Lost

“And the Israelites served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel” (Judges 2:7 NLT). Joshua was one of the great leaders of the Old Testament. The people of Joshua’s time had personally experienced the power of God bringing deliverance but somehow they did not pass it on. “After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10 NLT). We are always one generation from losing everything we have in God.

Satan Always Attacks the Children of Promise

Pharaoh had the male babies killed in the time of Moses

Herod did the same during the time of Jesus.

The ancient pagan people intermingled their women with covenant men to turn children from following the God of Israel.

The Devil's strategy is to kill the righteous heirs before they are able to rise.

Absalom, the eldest son of David had a bright future. "Now no one in Israel was as handsome as Absalom. From head to foot, he was the perfect specimen of a man" (2 Samuel 14:25 NLT). He was outstanding. He could move people. People listened as he spoke. He was gifted and sensitive to people's needs. He was a strategist, a leader people could follow. Absalom would have made a great king but before he rose to where God could use him, he stepped outside the will of God. Satan had a strategy against this young man. His half brother raped his sister and his father David did not deal with it to bring righteous judgment. Absalom allowed bitterness and rebellion to get into his heart over this and lost his destiny.

Reuben was another spiritual descendent who had great possibilities. "Reuben, you are my oldest son, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first on the list in rank and honor" (Genesis 49:3 NLT). Unfortunately, the unique destiny that was his, and his children's, did not matter to him as much as a few moments of pleasure. He lost the honor, blessing, inheritance, and the portion that belonged to him. God still blessed him but he lost his destiny. Mistakes are not light things in God's sight. He forgives sin and restores, but if you ignore the things God gives you or hold lightly holy things, there is a cost. Jesus told the story of the prodigal son and how the father rejoiced that his son was home and prepared a banquet in his honor but — the inheritance was spent.

Many Leaders are Lost Before They Become Leaders

We hear news of famous leaders who fall into sin. If the truth were known, most would-be-leaders are lost before they ever reach the top. They are lost before they understand their destiny, lost at the beginning of their journey toward destiny. When we lose disciples through spiritual conflict, we lose more than a man or a woman. We lose future leaders God is preparing. We lose momentum and potential in the Kingdom of God.

Many are lost before they ever understand the consequences of their actions or words, before they ever rise in leadership. The Bible is filled with the history of this. Esau, the first-born son of Isaac, repented and wept as he cried, "Isn't there a blessing left for me?" He gave up his birthright for gratification of the flesh. He sold out before he ever understood the issues of what he was a part of. (Genesis 27)

Many youth who should inherit generational ministry and blessing are lost before they understand their destiny. Young men or women fall to temptation and sin. They don't serve God for years, destroying their opportunity for fruitful ministry.

There is Much More at Stake Than the Loss of a Person, There is Kingdom Loss

The enemy trips them up before they understand the consequences of their actions or words. Before

they realize what God has for them. I attended a wedding where I saw some young adults who had been in the youth group at our church. I was brokenhearted as I saw them, drinking and living a lifestyle away from God. A generation of youth who could have been used of God to touch their generation, now living only for self-indulgence.

One Indulgence Can Affect Legacy

When I was pioneering a church in Pennsylvania the first young man to get saved was named Louie. From the very beginning, I could tell that God's hand was upon this man so I began to disciple him. About a year and a half into his walk with God he returned to his home in New York City to see his mom. While Louie was there he met some old friends and one evening they all shot up with heroin, everyone sharing the same needle. One of the girls in the group was sick but no one paid attention to her condition. Louie repented of his personal failure and went on serving the Lord. Three years later Louie was beginning to get sick a lot. His mom called him and said his friends were all sick and dying so he better go to the doctor. This was 1986, when people were just hearing about AIDS. Yes, that one night in New York City, sharing a dirty needle cost Louie his Kingdom opportunity. Louie died a short time later.

All it takes to destroy a destiny is one deviation to the side. One indulgence can affect your future. Gehazi, the disciple of Elisha lost his destiny and became a leper because of one gratification of the flesh. (2 Kings 5) Many think that it does not matter what you do; God is grace and love and he will overlook sin and failure. I understand the wonderful grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus, but sin carries with it a cost.

Disciple Makers Grab Hold of a Generational Understanding

At this season of my life, I have the honor of having teenage grandchildren. When my two children were teenagers I was much younger and I hope a little more cool. Now, I want to be able to connect with my teenage grandchildren. I will not be able to do this by trying to be like them or even by trying to understand their culture or lingo. I am grandpa. I also will not connect with them if I am not genuinely interested in what interests them. Too often it is difficult for one generation to accept the differences in the other generation. One is usually complaining about the other. The generation gap is a satanic strategy to separate and stop the flow of generational relationship and—the transfer of generational blessings.

Every Generation is Reached for Christ Differently

We must find ways of handing the Kingdom to the following generation in ways they can receive. Every generation has different cultural experiences. Each has a different knowledge base. Each generation operates in a different linguistic form.

Starbucks is more sensitive to generations and global culture than most churches. Why do over 60 million people a week, in 64 countries pay \$4.00 (and up), amounting to over \$10 Billion dollars a year for coffee? Why has Bill Gates and the late Steve Jobs changed the world? Because, great leaders share the ability to read the forces that shape the time in which they live and to seize the resulting opportunities. Every generation deserves to have,

“Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1Chronicles 12:32 NIV).

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8 NLT).

Our experience with him is to be like the daily manna the children of Israel gathered, new every morning. Jesus said, “New wine must be put in new wineskins” (Luke 5:38 NLT).

The only way for things to stay the same is for them to change. If you want the Gospel to be as alive to your children and grandchildren as it is for you, then you’ve got to constantly make changes. This goes for grandpa, for disciple makers, and the church in general.

I Am Constantly Learning New Ways to do Old Things

In the book, *“Passing It On,”* by Myles Munroe, he has a chapter on, “Make Room for the Maverick.” Here are a few quotes from that chapter:

“‘Maverick’ generally describes a person or a personality who interjects new, untested, unconventional ideas into an environment. People like this do not allow the traditions and conventions of an organization or a company to entrap them. Usually a younger person comes in with fresh ideas because he or she is not immersed in the historical traditions of the organization. Mavericks are usually agents of change. Change is healthy for any organization because change is the only component in life that is inevitable. Whether we initiate change or become victims of change, change will win. Progress is never born by traditionalist, it is birthed by those who break tradition.

“Mavericks are the ones who go beyond what others have done and make history. Jesus was a maverick. John the Baptist certainly was a maverick. The Virgin Mary was a maverick. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a maverick. Mahatma Gandhi was a maverick. Eleanor Roosevelt was a maverick. Bill Gates is a maverick. Hillary Clinton is a maverick. Barack Obama is a maverick. The list is long, and it is hard to think of any great leader who does not fit the bill.” (*Passing It On*, by Myles Munroe)

Disciple makers must be like David and ask the Lord to help us to proclaim God’s power to this new generation of disciples. It is the Mavericks, who challenge the methods that are not working. They are not rebels, but people of vision who need to be facilitated not excommunicated. Disciple makers must be like the men of Issachar, recognizing cultural changes and seizing the opportunities. For the rest of your life you can do things the same way you always have, or you can seek to put the continual new wine into new wineskins.

The true church of Jesus Christ has passed through generation after generation, from culture to culture and from language to language. While, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever; the how, when, where, and way we do church and ministry has changed and is changing with each step.

To abandon our past is to forget what we know. “Moses said to Aaron, ‘Get a container and put two quarts of manna into it. Then store it in a sacred place as a reminder for all future generations’” (Exodus 16:33 NLT). The church builds on tradition—it doesn’t live on tradition. We graft new

ministries onto old roots.

Leonard Sweet said, "Christianity does not go through time like water in a straw. It passes through cultural prisms and historical periods, which means that Christianity is organic."

In the 70's, Janet and I were traveling as evangelists throughout the South Eastern District (Southeastern States) in the Foursquare Gospel Churches. There was a clash between the old timers and a new generation of Foursquare leaders. When I would meet pastors, I would almost always be asked, "Are you a pulpit stomper or a bench sitter?" They wanted to know if I was an old time type preacher or like the new teachers that were coming up in the organization. The new style of communicating the gospel was challenging to some of the older preachers.

Then in the late 70's and 80's the Jesus People Movement was in high gear. Rock & Roll music was replacing the piano and organ in the church. Again, a controversy arose. Churches refused to allow Hippies in and railed against their music. Today most worship services have more rock music in them than the 70's music the church refused to embrace.

What are you refusing to embrace?

What are you protecting?

A true disciple maker will be able to recognize the trends and the seasons, while embracing and discipling the Mavericks.

I thank God that I was introduced to a pastor who embraced and disciplined Mavericks, of whom most of my friends and partners in the faith were and still are today.

Longevity is Spiritual Leadership Who Hears From God

Longevity is not simply being old, it is spiritual leadership who lays hold of God, hears from God, then passes that on. When you lose that you lose blessings.

Jacob's life is a story of growth. He went from being a liar and a deceiver to become "a prince with God." He had longevity and maturity. When he laid his hands on the two sons of Joseph he reversed his hands placing his right hand upon the head of Ephraim who was the youngest. When Joseph saw it he removed his father's hand saying, "No, Father," he said, "this one over here is older. Put your right hand on his head." But his father refused. "I know what I'm doing, my son," he said. "Manasseh, too, will become a great people, but his younger brother will become even greater. His descendants will become a multitude of nations!" (Genesis 48:18-19 NLT). Joseph was able to impart something precious into the third generation.

I assume that you are either a leader or desire to become a leader in the Kingdom of God. The issue, is the example you are going to set. That will usually only compute out over the years and generationally. Biblical promises unfold through generations.

"Let this be recorded for future generations, so that a nation yet to be created will praise the LORD" (Psalm 102:18 NLT).

"I will write down all these things as a testimony of what the LORD will do. I will entrust it to my disciples, who will pass it down to future generations" (Isaiah 8:16 NLT).

Vision is not for This Time Only

Vision inspires. Vision empowers. Individuals with vision have done some amazing things. When your vision becomes bigger than yourself, then the fire of that vision begins to spread to others and extend to generations, there, exists the potential of shaping nations and changing history.

We are heirs to a vision that is thousands of years old, a vision that has inspired and empowered countless generations. This vision will not die. It will not fail to be fulfilled, because it is God's vision.

The question is not, whether or not it will come to pass. The question is whether or not this vision of making disciples, who make disciples, that reach the world, will live in us. There is urgency before each of us, to make disciples, and to pass on a spiritual legacy that will continue to the generations.

LEGACY



Jack L. Neville Sr.



Jack L. Neville Jr.



Michael D. Neville



Michael J. Neville



**Jack L. Neville 3rd
Paul L. Neville**

**Over 170 Years
of
Ministry**

Chapter 14



REWARD

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth.”

3 John 1:4

In John’s letters he writes about the reward of disciple making when he uses the reference, “My little children” over fourteen times. There is no greater satisfaction in life and ministry than being a disciple maker.

We have seen that disciple making is not a method, a system or an empty ritual. It is a transfer of spiritual grace. “And of the angels He says: ‘Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire’” (Hebrews 1:7 NKJV). The spirit of discipleship is imparted from heart to heart, like a fire that spreads from one bush to another.

Disciple Making has a Multiplying Power

The disciples were to start a fire that would spread all over the world, “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” (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV).

Disciple making has a multiplying power. We can reproduce ourselves, passing on vision and destiny to others. One man or one woman is not the answer for world evangelism, no matter how great their ministry may be, or how supernaturally God blesses and uses them.

A critical factor in disciple making is the mysterious power of a spiritual leader to pass vision and purpose by the will of God to another person.

The key to disciple making is not found in books or manuals, but in the give and take of lives. Impartation calls for the personal touch, honesty and openness.

“So we have been greatly comforted, dear brothers and sisters, in all of our own crushing troubles and suffering, because you have remained strong in your faith. It gives us new life, knowing you remain strong in the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 3:7-8 NLT).

Can you hear Paul’s heart? This is not the heart a professional preacher fulfilling his religious obligations. It is a man whose heart is linked with other men. He felt their need. This is life itself.

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem so he stops by Ephesus where he served for a number of years and established a great church. He knew that he would never see the people, (or brothers and sisters)

in Ephesus again, “And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him” (Acts 20:36-37 NKJV).

The Reward of Disciple Making is an Eternal Bond with Other Human Beings

It is a work of God that involves eternity.

Jesus had a short time on this earth.

He chose to invest his time and ministry in disciple making. I choose to follow his example.

I leave you with the same challenge that Paul left with Timothy his son in the faith...

“And the things that you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2 TNIV).

Until Jesus returns...

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About the Author



Larry Neville spearheads Praise Chapel Christian Fellowship as its president and visionary. His passion is disciple making and church planting. He has personally pioneered churches in Arizona, Pennsylvania, the Philippines and Singapore and has sent disciples into many more cities and nations.

Larry and Janet have been married over 40 years, they have two children, six grandchildren.

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CONNECTIVITY
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Larry Neville



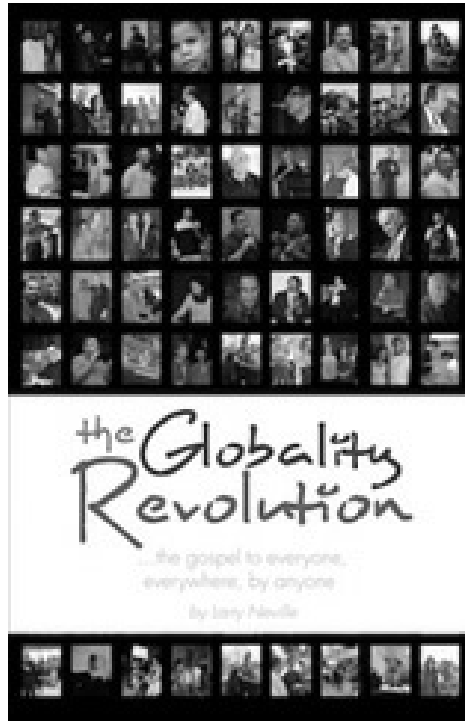
Connectivity—The Power to Touch the World, is a message about what can be done through a fellowship of God’s people who are truly connected for the purpose of touching the world.

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THE GLOBALITY REVOLUTION

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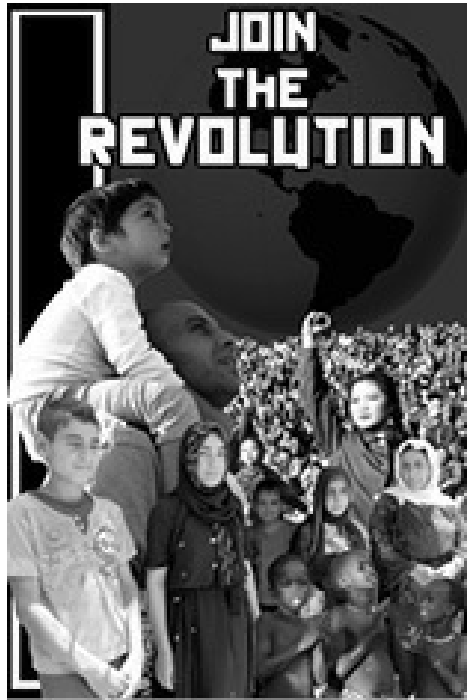
“The Globality Revolution dictates that there are greater challenges and therefore greater opportunities than we’ve ever imagined”

It is time to release the power of “Anyone” in the Body of Christ to take the Gospel to “Everyone, Everywhere.” Larry Neville shares the Vision of Praise Chapel Family of Fellowships and how we can reach the world for Jesus through Church Multiplication.



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