

The Heart of a Disciple-Maker

Multiply--Week 3

June 2, 2013

DAY 1

Matt. 28:19-20 As you are going, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you to the close of the age.

1. When you think about "making disciples," engaging with people around you, what things come to mind that you think will help in this endeavor. Put a check next to the ones you think would be helpful...

People see me as deeply religious

People know I don't associate with "those people"

People know I wouldn't show up for an event they're interested in because alcohol will be served

People apologize to me when they cuss, because they fear I'll be offended

People need to see that my life is "together" because I follow Christ

People need to see that my struggles are miniscule

2. How many check marks did you have? I hope you had no check marks. All of those things, at their core, are the same kinds of things that drove the Pharisees--outward conformity to religious standards *as more important* than loving people where they are and directing them toward the God who loves them.

3. Think for a moment. Who were the people that God used to point you toward Him? List a few names...

4. What was it about the people that God used to draw you to God? What were they like?

5. Put a check next to the items you saw in the people God used to bring you to Himself...

They had internal joy

They were people of internal peace

They loved me; they loved people

They cared about me

Other: _____

6. What strikes you about what's really needed in making disciples?

DAY 2

1. Christians often shoot themselves in the foot when they try to make disciples. We try being religious, or super-religious, or "have our act together," thinking that any of these things will show "my life is different." Unfortunately, it does, but with the wrong effect! We make it less likely that someone would be drawn to Christ. Have you seen Christians who mean well but drive folks further from God?

2. People are naturally resistant to the things of God. This is especially true if they think they need to be *more* religious, or pretend life is "swell." People can see us as "plastic," phonies, not real about life or ourselves.

3. In the verses below, jot down what motivated the apostle Paul as he made disciples...

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

2 Corinthians 6:11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.

2 Corinthians 12:15 So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?

4. What strikes you about Paul's attitude?

5. What do you think was the effect of his attitude on some of the people?

6. What would you like people to pick up from your attitude?

DAY 3

1. As you make disciples, motives matter.

People need to know that you genuinely care for them. Let's unpack this!

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

2. In this passage, Paul offers three different qualities we may try to **substitute** instead of love. There is one in each of the verses above. List them, below:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. In the first example, Paul imagines a very eloquent speaker. His problem? His "love quotient" is sorely lacking. What does Paul say is the result of his lofty oratory?

4. In the second example, Paul imagines a highly gifted leader, wise beyond his years, and a man of excellent faith. His problem? His "love quotient" is sorely lacking. What is the result of any of his magnificent gifts?

5. In the third example, Paul imagines a man who lives a life of sacrifice, who is ready to part with any or all of his possessions if that will move the kingdom of God ahead. He imagines a man who will not compromise the things of God, even if it costs him his life. His problem? His "love quotient" is sorely lacking. What does Paul say is the result?

6. Which of these three examples strikes you most? Why?

7. Are there important values, like the ones Paul cites, that you allow to "trump" love for people? Or, let me turn the question around. What is it that people most see in you, or sense in you?

8. Not everyone will respond to you, but some will. The ones that do will likely respond because they sense you genuinely care about them, more than any of the other "substitutes" Paul mentioned in today's passage.

9. What is your biggest takeaway from today's passage?

DAY 4

1. Yesterday, we saw that *love matters most*.

Today, we'll look at the next section of verses...

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

2. It is never enough to simply think, "I'm a loving person." *Generic love, general love* is useless. Love must be specific, demonstrated, communicated, re-communicated, and felt by the recipient of our love.

In the following exercise, you may use the "love" characteristics in our verses **MORE THAN ONCE**. From the passage above, list 5 ways love must be:

a. Demonstrated:

b. Communicated:

c. Lived out in our *attitude*:

d. Intentional:

3. Let's unpack a few of the characteristics! How would each of the following characteristics of love adversely affect disciple-making if you were weak in...

a. "love is not self-seeking" -

b. "love keeps no record of wrongs" -

c. "love does not boast" -

d. "love always hopes" -

4. Pray for three of the characteristics you suspect need God's help in your "love quotient."

DAY 5

1 Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1. Paul finishes this great chapter by high-lighting the supremacy of love, its transcendence, and impact.

In 13:8 what do you think Paul means when he says, "Love never fails"?

2. In 13:8-10, Paul contrasts love with three significant spiritual abilities.

a. What are they?

b. What is true of each of them?

c. How is this different from love? What is the difference between things that are temporal and things that are eternal?

3. In 13:11-12 what is Paul's point?

4. Can you think of an example where you once thought one thing was very important, but over time, you realized other things were actually more important?

5. How would this picture of growing up from child to adult illustrate the contrast Paul makes in this chapter of "love" and amazing faith, sacrifice, and gifts?

6. In 13:13 Paul highlights the greatest qualities any human being can aspire to: faith, hope and love. What is Paul trying to drive home to the Corinthians, and to us?

7. As you interact with people you may not be aware of how important love is, as you make disciples. But be sure of this: they will!!! How do you think God is trying to build love into your life? Do you see Him highlighting specific qualities of love? Do you see Him trying to elevate the value of love to a place of preeminence? Something else?