Each One, Reach One

(A Lesson on making Disciples)

II Timothy 2:2 & Selected Scriptures

Introduction:

I. <u>WHY</u> SHOULD I DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE?

1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS DISCIPLESHIP

2. BECAUSE NEW BELIEVERS NEED DISCIPLING

A. NEW BELIEVERS (like newborn infants) NEED LOVE, PROTECTION, FOOD AND TRAINING

1. They are more <u>vulnerable</u> than mature Christians

2. They have a great <u>potential for growth</u> (change)

B. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN CHRIST (II Cor. 5:17)

C. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT CHRIST IS NOW THE <u>LORD</u> OF THEIR LIVES.
(Teach them the <u>Lordship of Christ</u>)

II. HOW SHOULD I DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE?

A. Be all that you need to be with a real love for Jesus Christ (Mt. 22:37)

B. Pray fervently for someone to pour your life into (Luke 6:12-13

C. Start developing a relationship & friendship with the fellow-Christian, who God leads you to disciple

Men disciple men
Women disciple women (Titus 2)

1. Your disciple will need your time & attention (Mk. 3:13-14)

2. Your disciple will need to see your Christ-like Example (I Cor. 4:16, 11:1)

D. Begin Teaching your Disciple by your words, Character, & Conduct

Your disciple will need your Training (Matthew 28:19-20)

a. Teach him/her to Glorify God (The Purpose that drives our life)

b. Teach him/her how to establish a daily devotional life

c. Teach him/her how to Think God honoring Thoughts

d. Teach him/her how to Make God honoring Decisions

e Teach him/her how to become faithfully involved in Church ministry (Acts 2:42, 45-47)

E. Your disciple will need Accountability

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Introduction: God's Goal in Saving us: Christlikeness and then Reproduction of Christlikeness in Others

How do you know whether you are a Disciple?

Are you a true citizen of Heaven? (Matthew 7:21)
Is your life characterized by Obedience, Submission, Love (Jn. 13:35), Prayer & Bible Study

I. WHY SHOULD I DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE?

1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS DISCIPLESHIP

A. DISCIPLESHIP IS THE GREAT COMMISSION (Mt. 28:18-20)
("Teach" = lit. "make disciples")

B. DISCIPLESHIP WAS THE PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Discipleship is expounding "the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:23-28)

2. Discipleship is declaring "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:18-20, 26-27)

For full discipleship to take place, you need:

a. public teaching of the Word in a church (see Acts 11:26)

b. private teaching of the Word in a home (see Acts 18:23-28)

Personal discipleship does not contradict the ministry of a church--it complements it. You need both! Don't substitute one for another. A pulpit ministry does not substitute for personal evangelism and discipleship, and vice-versa.

3. Discipleship is giving to others what has been committed to you (II Tim. 2:2)

a. Christ discipled the apostles (who were called His disciples (see the Gospels)
b. The apostles discipled Barnabas (implied in Acts 4:36)
c. Barnabas discipled Paul (Acts 9:27)
d. Paul discipled Timothy (I Tim. 1:2)
e. Timothy discipled Ephesian saints (I Tim. 1:3)
f. Paul discipled Aquilla & Priscilla (implied in Acts 18:2, 18)
g. Aquilla & Priscilla discipled Apollos (Acts 18:23-28)
h. Apollos discipled the Corinthian saints (Acts 19:1, I Cor. 1:12)

4. Discipleship is the goal of the ministry (Eph. 4:11-13)

2. BECAUSE NEW BELIEVERS NEED DISCIPLING

A. NEW BELIEVERS (like newborn infants) NEED LOVE, PROTECTION, FOOD AND TRAINING

1. They are more vulnerable than mature Christians

a. More easily deceived by Satan (I Th. 3:5)

b. More easily led astray by false religions, false movements, and false teachings (Acts 20:29-31)

2. They have a great potential for growth (change)

a. Fastest growth rate is in early childhood (just as the early stages of growth are vital to an infant, the early stages are vital to a new convert)

b. Patterns are established early that will continue

B. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN CHRIST (II Cor. 5:17)

1. Teach him that he has a new faith (change in beliefs) (Acts 2:42 - "continued in apostles' doctrine)

2. Teach him that he has a new food (change in diet) (I Pet. 2:2; Mt. 4:4)

3. Teach him that he has a new family (change in relationships) (Prov. 24:1; I Cor. 15:33; II Cor. 6:14-16)

4. Teach him that he has a new fight (change in conflicts) (Put on new man - Eph. 4:24; I Thes. 3:1-5; II Tim. 3:12; James 1)

5. Teach him that he has a new future (Eph. 2:1-10)

a. Change in direction (new goals) (Eph. 2:1-5)

b. Change in destiny (new hope) (Eph. 2:6-7)

1) We anticipate no judgment for sin
--We face no condemnation (Ro. 8:1)
--We have passed from death to life (Jn. 5:24-25)

2) We anticipate a new body (I Cor. 15:51-58)

3) We anticipate a new home (II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-8)
We must live like citizens of Heaven - Phil. 1:27; 3:20; Eph. 2:19

c. Change in duty (new responsibilities) (Eph. 2:8-10)

Serve (work for) Christ and His children with love as your motive (Jn. 13:34; I Jn. 2:7-8).

We are not saved to sit, soak, and sour, but to serve!

C. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT CHRIST IS NOW THE LORD OF THEIR LIVES.
(Teach them the Lordship of Christ)

1. Who is Jesus?

a) He is Master & Lord (Jn.13:13)

b) He is over all things (Col.1:16-18)

c) Every knee shall bow before Him (Phil.2:9-11)

(He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords - Rev.19:16)

2. How must we respond?

a) Follow Him (without question) (Lk.5:27-28)
(cp. Lk.9:23: To do so you must: deny self die to self)

b) Obey Him (Lk.6:46)

c) Serve Him (Jn.12:26)

d) Live for Him (II Cor.5:15)

(see Rom. 12:1,2)

Christ is Lord over our: personal lives, family relationships, use of money & time, friendships, possessions, careers, etc.

If God commands discipleship, we must obey.

If new believers need it, we must love them enough to commit ourselves to this great task.

II. HOW SHOULD I DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE?

Making disciples is more than leading people to Christ or having them study a series of books. (In this study) we will see that making disciples is sharing our lives with people so that they become like us whether that is good or bad. Only as we are becoming like Christ will those with whom we are sharing our lives become like Christ. That is why Paul said in I Corinthians 11:1, " Imitate me, just as I also *imitate*

Christ." (NKJV)

In order to share our lives with people we have to spend time with them in a variety of different situations." (Church Planting Through Disciple Making - 1997 Duane L. Anderson, p.3)

Contrast the Greek theoretical impartation of facts & knowledge verses the Hebrew practical impartation of wisdom by lifestyle & example. Jesus taught using the Hebrew method and not the Greek style.

A. **<u>Be all that you need to be</u> with a real <u>love</u> for Jesus Christ** (Mt. 22:37)
Matthew 22:37
Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

B. **<u>Pray</u> fervently for someone to pour your life into** (Luke 6:12-13
*And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and **<u>continued all night in prayer to God</u>**.*
And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

III. **Start developing a <u>relationship & friendship</u> with the fellow-Christian, who God leads you to disciple**

Men disciple men

Women disciple women (Titus 2)

A. Your disciple will need your <u>time & attention</u> (Mk. 3:13-14)

Mark 3:13-14
*And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, **that they should be with him**, and that he might send them forth to preach*

B. Your disciple will need to see your Christ-like <u>Example</u>
(I Cor. 4:16, 11:1)

1 Cor. 4:16
Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.
1 Cor. 11:1
Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

I Timothy 4:12

Being an example is a vital element to influencing others for God:

- Joh 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you
- 1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
- Php 3:17 - Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.
- 2Th 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us
- 1Th 1:7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.
- 1Pe 5:3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
- I Thess.1:6-7 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

"Despise" - To think down upon; to under-rate; to think slightly of.

Some might think: "what does he know about God, spiritual matters, about fathering, etc. He's but a young man, inexperienced, etc.

"Youth" - not necessarily someone who is a teenager or pre-adolescent.
"In the ancient world a person between 30 and 40 years old could be considered young (Kelly). One Rabbi said that a person at 30 was fit for authority and at 40 he was fit for discernment (M, Aboth V, 21) (cited by Reinecker, p. 627).

Being young is no excuse for a bad testimony, language ("word"), lifestyle ("conversation"), relationships ("love"), attitude ("spirit"), convictions ("faith"), morals ("purity").

"Be thou an example" (present, middle, imperative - *ginou* from *ginomai*) - Become thou. Regardless of your past, start setting a good example. Perhaps you have been a failure in your past; this word points to a new beginning.

The present tense implies a continual (lifelong) example.
The middle voice implies choice and determination (an act of the will) that you will decide to be exemplary.
The imperative mood implies that it is an obligation not an option for you to be the right example.

"Example" - *tupos* from which we translate "type."

Tupos primarily denoted "a blow" (from a root tup--, seen also in tupto, "to strike"), hence,
(a) an impression, the mark of a "blow," <John 20:25>;
(b) the "impress" of a seal, the stamp made by a die, a figure, image, <Acts 7:43>;
(c) a "form" or mold, <Rom. 6:17> (see RV);
(d) the sense or substance of a letter, <Acts 23:25>;
(e) "an ensample," pattern, <Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5>, "pattern"; in an ethical sense, <1 Cor. 10:6; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thes. 1:7; 2 Thes. 3:9; 1 Tim. 4:12>,
(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
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Brethren, we need to be . . .
--a mold worth duplicating.
--a pattern worth copying
--a model worth imitating

"Of the believers" - God is not calling upon us to model the world (TV examples), but what a believer should be.

--He has unique standards for His children.
--He is not calling upon the lost to be an example (they cannot be).

Example . . .
1) Example plays an important part in th formation of character; and its influence is felt more than that of precept.
2) Example may be good or bad (it is never neutral).
3) Example is teaching by action

1) Be an example worth copying in your LANGUAGE
(Can your disciple model how you **TALK**?)
"In word" - in speech; refers here to what you say and how you say it. The content of your words and the manner in which you say them.
Inflection, tone, pitch, etc., communicate more than the actual words you say!
Eph. 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

2) Be an example worth copying in your LIFESTYLE
(Can your disciple model how you **ACT**?)
"Conversation" - An old English word which meant behavior, conduct, manner of living, or lifestyle.
"Your walk talks and your talk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks."

3) Be an example worth copying in your RELATIONSHIPS
(Can your disciple model how you **LOVE**?)

What is your relationship to your family?

4) Be an example worth copying in your <u>ATTITUDE</u>
(Can your disciple model your **<u>ZEAL FOR GOD</u>**?)

The first three words ("word, conduct, and charity") emphasize our <u>outward</u> example, while the next three words ("spirit, faith, purity") emphasize our <u>inward</u> example (the manifestation of a Godly inward disposition).
"In Spirit" - (T.R. & KJV) - to be an example "in Spirit") means to have a <u>zest</u> (zeal) for spiritual things; to have an enthusiastic <u>attitude</u> about God and the things of God.
This person is not dull, drab, or depressed, but is excited about Christ and the new and abundant life He gives.

5) Be an example worth copying in your <u>CONVICTIONS</u>
(Can your disciple model what you **<u>BELIEVE</u>**?)

A conviction is a belief you would be willing to die for.
Do you have "Sunday morning only" convictions?
Does your faith drive you to <u>action</u>? Does it influence your behavior?
If it produces no works, then it is surely dead and useless (you really don't believe).

6) Be an example worth copying in your <u>HOLINESS</u>
(Can your disciple model your **<u>MORALITY</u>**?)

"Purity" - Holiness or sanctity. The word refers to purity of act and thought (Lock).
The word covers not only chastity in matters of sex, but also the innocent and integrity of heart (cp. II Cor. 6:6) (Kelly) (cited by Reinecker, p. 627)

"Be ye followers of god as dear children"

Questions about our command to Make Disciples

a. Do I feel comfortable in asking people to imitate me? - I Cor.11:1

b. If I do not feel comfortable asking people to imitate me, what things do I need to change in my own life so that I am working to imitate Christ?

c. If I do feel comfortable asking people to imitate me as I imitate Christ, are there adjustments that I need to make in my life so that a small group of people can have the opportunity to observe me in many situations?

d. Am I learning to Make Disciples in the strength that Christ provides rather than in my own strength? - Acts 1:4-8

(Church Planting Through Disciple Making - 1997 Duane L. Anderson, p.11)

C. Your disciple will need your unselfish <u>Love</u> (Mt. 22:39; John 13:34-35)

Matthew 22:39
And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

John 13:34-35
A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. [35] By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Discipleship is Relational and Requires:

Loyalty

Warmth

Availability

Patience

Honesty

IV. <u>Begin Teaching</u> your Disciple by your words, Character, & Conduct

A. Your disciple will need your <u>Training</u> (Matthew 28:19-20)

1. Teach him/her to <u>Glorify God</u> (The Purpose that drives our life)

1 Cor. 10:31
Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

2. Teach him/her how to establish a <u>daily devotional life</u>

a. Prayer
b. Bible Reading/Study/Meditation/Memorization

3. Teach him/her how to <u>Think</u> God honoring Thoughts

Teach him how to have a mind <u>controlled</u> by the <u>Spirit</u> of God

Eph. 5:18; II Cor. 10:4-5
Ask God to:
--<u>Search</u> your thoughts and reveal to you any evil (Ps. 139:23)
--<u>Create</u> a clean thought life in you (Ps. 51:10)
--<u>Control</u> your thoughts each day

How to <u>improve</u> your "thought life"

These truths apply only to the <u>"born-again" Christian</u>, because only salvation gives man
the ability to think spiritually (Eph. 1:18).

1) Renew your thoughts (Rom. 12:2)
2) Discipline your thoughts (II Cor. 10:3-5)
3) Focus your thoughts (Phil. 4:8)

4. Teach him/her how to Make God honoring Decisions

God created man with an intellect (to think); emotion (to feel); and a will (to make choices).

- Every decision is important.
- You are responsible for the decisions you make in life.
- Your decisions both reveal your character and form it.
- Your present circumstances are (in large part) a result of your past choices.
- The decisions you must make today may be a result of decisions you made in your past (Our choices can result in a vicious or victorious cycle)
- God is concerned about the details of your life.
  (He cares about the choices you make - Mt 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.)

Some Warnings about Decision Making:

1) Beware of making hasty decisions (Quick decisions)

2) Beware of making carnal decisions (Decisions when you are not close to God)

3) Beware of making self-serving decisions (out of selfish motives)

4) Beware of making unsure decisions (If its doubtful, its dirty)

5) Beware of making <u>emotional</u> decisions (without reason)

6) Beware of making <u>faith-less</u> decisions (throwing out “the fleece”)

5. Teach him/her how to become faithfully involved in <u>Church ministry</u>

(Acts 2:42, 45-47)

Acts 2:42

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:45-47

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. [46] And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, [47] Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

B. Your disciple will need <u>Accountability</u>

Teach him/her how to <u>correct weaknesses & overcome sinful habits</u> (Gal. 6:1-2) (Requires loving confrontation)

I Thessalonians 5:14-15

We are called to be spiritual physicians and spiritual workers who must know how to handle the irritable. We must know how to deal with those who "rub us the wrong way"; those who "get under your skin."
As Christian counselors, we need to learn how to help the helpless, to direct the directionless, to encourage the discouraged, to love the unlovable.