

Discipleship Selection

Read Luke 6:12-19 and 2 Timothy 2:2

-What are some key things we learn about discipleship in these passages?

Why selection?

1. Realistically, you can only disciple a few
2. It's what Jesus did
3. Not everyone wants to be discipled by Cru
4. Not everyone wants to move toward biblical discipleship
5. Long-term impact is key

Below are some excerpts from ***Robert Coleman's Master Plan of Evangelism*** that talk about how Jesus did ministry and selection.

His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow.

Men were to be his method of winning the world to God.

As one might expect, these early efforts of soul winning had little or no immediate effect upon the religious life of his day, but that did not matter greatly. For as it turned out, these few early converts of the Lord were destined to become the leaders of his church that was to go with the gospel to the whole world, and from the standpoint of his ultimate purpose, the significance of their lives would be felt throughout eternity. That's the only thing that counts.

Yet Jesus saw in these simple men the potential of leadership for the Kingdom. They were indeed "unlearned and ignorant" according to the world's standard (Acts 4:13), but they were **teachable**.

Jesus can use anyone who wants to be used.

One cannot transform a world except as individuals in the world are transformed, and individuals cannot be changed except as they are molded in the hands of the Master. The necessity is apparent not only to select a few helpers but also to keep the group small enough to be able to work effectively with them.

This does not mean that Jesus' decision to have twelve apostles excluded others from following him, for as we know, many more were numbered among his associates, and some of these became very effective workers in the church. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that there was a rapidly diminishing priority given to those outside the Twelve.

He literally staked his whole ministry on them.

Jesus did all that any man could be asked to do and more to reach the multitudes.

In every way possible Jesus manifested to the masses of humanity a genuine concern. These were the people whom he came to save—he loved them, wept over them, and finally died to save them from their sin. No one could think that Jesus shirked mass evangelism.

Jesus was not trying to impress the crowd, but to usher in a kingdom. This meant that he needed people who could lead the multitudes.

Unless Jesus' converts were given competent men of God to lead them on and protect them in the truth, they would soon fall into confusion and despair, and the last state would be worse than the first. Thus, before the world could ever be permanently helped, people would have to be raised up who could lead the multitudes in the things of God.

The multitudes of discordant and bewildered souls were potentially ready to follow him, but Jesus individually could not possibly give them the personal care they needed. His only hope was to get leaders inspired by his life who would do it for him.

Though he did what he could to help the multitudes, he had to devote himself primarily to a few men, rather than the masses, so that the masses could at last be saved. This was the genius of his strategy.

A few people so dedicated in time will shake the world for God. Victory is never won by the multitudes.

Anyone who is willing to follow Christ can become a mighty influence on the world providing, of course, this person has the proper training.

Here is where we must begin just like Jesus. It will be slow; tedious, painful, and probably unnoticed by people at first, but the end result will be glorious, even if we don't live to see it.

We must decide where we want our ministry to count—in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of our lives in a few chosen people who will carry on our work after we have gone.

Reflection Questions:

-What is the most challenging thing to you about selection?

-How did Jesus care for the masses even after choosing his 12 disciples?

-What would both discipleship and caring for the masses look like for you today? What capacity do you feel like you have to do this?

-According to the article, what are good criteria for choosing someone to disciple?

Remember that discipleship is more than just friendship with someone. You can have a great connection with someone and hang out all the time but that is not discipleship. Discipleship is intentionally pouring your life into someone with the expectation that they will multiply their life into others as well. This is why you want to find **R.A.F.T.** people. **Relational, available, faithful and teachable.**

-Who are some people that you want to invite into a discipleship relationship?