

BUILDING DISCIPLES

Jesus could tell the difference between the touch of faith and the touch of unbelief. Can you? Are you sensitive to the spiritual needs of your disciples?

1st Segment - the Lord at work.

2nd Segment - the disciples at work with the Lord evaluating

1st Principle: Luke 9:1 - the Lord gave them POWER and AUTHORITY first - He is not in the business of frustrating you - the Spirit of God does not bite His nails.

2nd Principle: Clear-cut OBJECTIVES which our Lord always has - to be a servant.

2 Characteristics of a leader:

- 1) a person who knows where he is going
- 2) One who is able to persuade others to go along with him.
(Ministry is the one place where you can get paid for being mediocre) How infectious are you?
Our Lord sent them forth to preach.

3rd Principle: Take nothing for your journey - to go by faith - outward sign of inward condition. 1st thing is to get people to TRUST GOD - We try to give them everything

Luke 9:7-9 . Reaction of Herod: afraid of multiplication.

9:10-17 - Jesus had a schedule, but people were more important to Him than program - He was flexible. Christ made the disciples work - 50 in each group. Then He gives them the food to distribute - always come back to Christ for more.

18-20 - Christ asked a question to make a point- who do you think I am? We often think of God as a harassed telephone operator - taking too many calls at once.

Rebuke and personal confrontation are parts of disciple building - hurting in order to heal. Gal. 6:1 - Rebuke after unconditionally accepting - never rejecting.

Prayer is a recognition that your need is not partial but complete. Growth is the spiritual realm comes only in unfavorable soil - we aske to be made more Christ-like. Let your reach excede your grasp - stretch to grow. Most of us resist change & yet that is what makes you grow - the more you stay in the cozy warmth of your nest, the less you want to go out. Tension is the most important ingredient in the growth process.

Luke 9:43b - 45 - Lesson on problem of understanding.

Hearing - people have a built-in filtering system - hear only what doesn't threaten them. They knew He was Messiah - knew Messiah had to reign - it "never dawned" on them that he would die.

"They were afraid to ask Him" not afraid of Jesus, but their fear was in themselves - they didn't want to change their idea of the Kingdom. Change is threatening thing to a person - don't want to know what we don't want to hear.

Acts 1:6,7 - ~~Christ~~ They are still asking about the Kingdom - Christ says it is not your business to know the timetable, their job was to WITNESS - many times you have to BLAST before you can BUILD.

You cannot hustle souls - prejudices are built up like onion layers, and have to be removed layer by layer.

Luke 9:46 - Lesson of greatness:

Whoever is at the bottom of totem pole i.e. way up in spiritual world is always down. Child-likeness - by nature a believer, we have to reverse the process we have learned as adults.

vs. 49-50 - Problem of acceptance:

"If we have the great one who are these peons?" We have too many Saul's fighting Davids instead of fighting Goliath. Watching Christians in action is a real liberal arts education.

Phil 1:18 - God's blessing on the message does not guarantee His approval of the messenger.

vs. 51-56 - Problem of Attitude:

"Do you want us to give them the fast burn?" James & John
I haven't called you to a ministry of condemnation, but one of compassion

This is a real problem: It is so easy to develop poor shoddy, unBiblical attitudes in our ministry - Now Lord, burn those people out - We forget that God accepted us just as we were - and He still loves people that way.

It is so easy in the Christian life to be educated beyond our intelligence. If you get overly impressed with what you do know, then God will have to slice you down to the place where He can use you. When you are impressed that you are not the answer, then you can become impressed that He is...then you accept people, your attitudes change.