

Practical Leadership

Understanding Jesus' expectation of Discipleship

Intro

Who here aspires to Leadership in the Kingdom?

The fact that we are Christians does not mean we are automatically leading people to heaven.

I. Disciple = Leader

-Christians by design "share their faith" and spread the Gospel. But we are going to see that Jesus' plan went further and was much more hands-on than that. The blueprint he laid out for us was to build something very specific.

Matthew 28:18-20

There are a lot of action words packed into Jesus' Commission to all disciples.

- Go
- Make
- Baptize
- Teach
- Obey
- By definition, Jesus called disciples to be leaders. To be people actively involved in making other people into something they previously were not.

Point: If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, you have been called to leadership: To lead men and women to Christ.

-Truth is, Everyone who is a disciple is in a leadership position.

But that doesn't mean we know what we're doing, right? With the best of intentions, its super easy to get it wrong

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Point: Being a faithful disciple does not necessarily mean we're being an effective one.

FAITHFULNESS ≠ EFFECTIVENESS

So today we will examine from a practical standpoint, what makes an effective leader of people according to the scriptures.

Q: *What are some of the common roles we see leaders in the Kingdom doing?*

- 1) Lead a Bible Talk
- 2) Be a great example
- 3) Organize/Rally People
- 4) D-Times
- 5) Plan Great Events
- 6) Preach The Word
- 7) Meet Needs

-Lets be clear, none of these are bad things, but alone, they all fall short of our primary objective...

-Lets think about this: If the job of all disciples is to lead people to Christ, then the job requirement of a successful disciple is to know exactly how to do this.

-What is the biblical definition of "disciple"? it is: "student" or "apprentice"

Point: Our primary job at all times is to learn how to lead people to Christ

We don't just teach each other to have quiet times and get to church on time. Our goal is to teach and equip them to change the world.

II. Example #1: Jesus' Leadership

"The Final Lesson"

Acts 1:3

Now everything had come to its peak Jesus returned and spoke about the kingdom for 40 days, preparing the disciples for it.

Q: *What about the Kingdom do you suppose he spent the most time talking about?*

Acts 2:38

He spoke about how to lead everybody into it, of course!

-How do we know? 'Cuz thats exactly what they did. They obeyed Jesus.

III. What Proper Leadership Looks Like

Acts 8:26-39

- 1) Phillip knew the scriptures
- 2) Capable of answering questions off the cuff
- 3) God put him in a situation; Phillip knew exactly what to do because someone taught him. Now the Eunuch also knew exactly what to do (...”why should’nt I be baptized?...”)
- 4) Baptized him

Though it is a part of the overall equation, “Sharing our faith” is not simply inviting people to church. Biblical faith saved your soul. If you are sharing this faith, The result should eventually save a soul. “sharing your faith” is more properly described by something akin to what Phillip did - Studied the bible with him.

IV. Consequences of Our Failure to Lead

Philemon 1:6

Biblical leadership keeps you faithful
Sharing Jesus’ plan produces: Appreciation, understanding, Full Recognition and Knowledge

Fall Aways

I’ve noticed young disciples who have seemingly lived faithful thriving lives while in the Santa Barbara Ministry, however, when they move, a lot of them do not keep going to church. I don’t know how many exactly. But its enough for me to take notice and and feel the need to speak on it.

Why do they not remain faithful??

In light of this study a possibility comes into focus.

John 4:34

If Jesus’ food is to lead leaders to heaven (i.e. make disciples), if this is what sustained him, gave him life, breath and air spiritually, then we

-Note that Peter knew what to tell the Jews. Peter knew what to do because Jesus specifically trained him to know. This was no Miracle. He even told Peter back in the **Matt 16:18** that peter would have the Keys to the Kingdom (In other words, he was saying that Peter would be the one to open the door)

Jesus’ Leadership training model

- 1) Taught them to save souls
- 2) Practiced it
- 3) Sent them out to repeat the process

Q: So how do we translate that to us today?

- 1) You find people to study the bible with. Invite your disciples to join to watch and take notes.
- 2) Have them lead the next one. Talk about what they learned after. Baptize.
- 3) Send them out to do the same thing, Coaching and training along the way

Point: Leaders are expected to be prepared to help people make it to heaven

Point: Leaders of Leaders are expected to be prepared to train their people to help others make it to heaven

There are 2 ways we can always be prepared to train others

1) Know The Study Series:

Know at least Discipleship, The Word And Seeking God by heart

These are your “work horse” studies you should be able to sit down with only a moments’ notice to do these with anyone.

2) Write your own Studies:

-Customized studies meet specific needs - The bible is useful for all good things. Use it

can expect with confidence that if we imitate Him, we will be fed too.

The only reason one dies spiritually is because they starve to death. No one can snatch a soul out of God's hand (John 10:28-29). In Christ we are provided all good things (Romans 8:28). Therefore, the only way to kill a saved soul is if he/she is not eating. A soul starves when they stop doing the work they were designed to accomplish.

But I can't help but wonder, did we fail to teach the importance of disciples being leaders? Did they have a clear understanding of what Jesus was expecting of them - to be a leader whether in SB or elsewhere?

-Or did we allow them to think what denominational religion believes - that we come to "service" to get "served" our "spiritual" food for the week?

Notice how we have come to expect others to feed us spiritually. Truly in America, the church has at times been guilty of adopting a bit of the "fast food" mentality where we arrive and expect to be served our spiritual strength and nourishment on a plate.

Either way, it is clear to me that they were not being fed. because:

Point: Leading by obeying Jesus' model for leadership keeps you faithful because it feeds you spiritually.

Moving forward, let us understand this one biblical fact with absolute clarity:

Point: Spiritual food, according to Jesus is about specific ACTION, not consumption. Its about obeying His call to complete His work, not the experience you take in from attending His church events and services.

V. BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP IS KEY TO GROWTH

With that in mind, look at **Acts 8:4**

-So, let's flip our perspective a bit and paint our evangelism in another light.

-let's say that the Word did NOT spread due to people courageously inviting people to church. They weren't planning a big campaign or event. So then, what was their motivation?

- Bring Your Neighbor Day
- Because they were commanded to Preach
- Accountability
- Cuz I'm Supposed to
- Guilt
- Cuz, I just love me some Jesus!

These things aren't wrong. But honestly, We've been doing that for years and have not seen the kind of explosive growth seen in the first century.

Point: The word spread like wild fire because each leader was making another leader

-People don't do this randomly or naturally. they are trained by someone else to do this.

-Apostles>Pentecost
disciples>Jerusalem>Phillip>Ethiopian Eunuch>
Ethiopian Church: in 300AD Christianity named the national religion. It spread cuz leaders were trained to make other leaders.

-Jesus' leadership model was surgically intentional. He did not share his faith aimlessly. He built disciples for growth. So it follows that his disciples built for growth, their disciples built for growth and so on.

Proverbs 29:18

-If we are to share in the kind of ministry Jesus intended, let us prove faithful to our Lords' ways and His instruction. Let us imitate the effective methods put to use since the beginning. Let us be leaders who make and lead leaders.