

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 9: Not Discipling Is Costly

There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus left us a plan to change the planet. Think about what he did: He picked 12 men and poured his life into them for 3 years. That was his plan to change the planet. Think about that. He died on a cross, he was buried, he was raised from the dead and then he gathers his disciples together and gives them this great strategy and command. He tells them to go and make disciples.

He assumed the going, but the part that was the command was to make disciples. So, what in the world does that mean? First, disciple-making was God's intention for every believer - not a special gift given to a select few. Second, not to make disciples who make disciples is very costly. In Deuteronomy 6, the Lord gives Moses' instructions to raise up the people of God during that time and then after Moses' time we read in the book of Joshua that "after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aid, 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them - to the Israelites.'"

So, Moses passed on the baton of leadership to Joshua. He disciplined him to then take the position of leadership and continue to multiply. Who did Joshua raise up to pass the baton on to? Think about that for a second. Having a hard time? The answer is: *no one*. The Scripture tells us in Judges 2 that "Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110... After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers [that means they died], another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshipped various gods of the peoples around them."

What other illustrations do we have? How about the Old Testament kings? We have a good king, then a bad king, then a good king, then a bad king. No consistency. How about the YMCA? It was started in the mid 1850s in England by a man named George Williams. The idea was to bring young men together around sports and recreation and then be able to help them understand who Christ was and study scripture. You may

have noticed that many YMCAs in our country have removed the C from YMCA; now they are just known as the Y.

How about the first 113 colleges and universities in America- The Harvards, the Yales, the Princetons? When Harvard College began in 1636 the chief aim of the institution was that “everyone shall consider the main end of his life and studies to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life.”

If we are not involved as individual followers of Jesus in making disciples who make disciples who make disciples, we are simply ignoring what Jesus commanded us to do.

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