

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 17: Picking Someone to Disciple

So, we'll continue our conversation about disciple-making, and not just meeting with somebody and giving them information from the Scripture or going through a study and then it ends there. It's discipling someone so that they are prepared and committed to disciple someone else, and then you also start with somebody new. It's an exponential factor that kicks in that takes goes viral.

Jesus said in Matthew 28 "Go therefore into all the world and make disciples." So how do you pick someone to disciple? Let me give you six quick points that I think will be helpful to you.

1. You pick. If you look at the Gospels, you see that Jesus picked the twelve disciples. They didn't come up to him and say, "Can I be disciplined by you?" Now let me say very quickly there's nothing wrong with someone coming to you if you do your due diligence and you sense that they are a viable candidate. By all means, take them on. But typically, you will pick someone because you've been praying, you've been watching, you've been observing, you've been visiting with these people, and you have a pretty good idea of whether they're going to be a good candidate in the sense that when you have completed the process, they will continue on and disciple other people.

2. Pick hungry people. If we don't pick people that have a thirst in their hearts for wanting to know Christ and to make a difference, you could be wasting your time. Now, people aren't a waste of time, but in terms of the goal, which is to raise up a team of disciple-makers, not everybody's ready for that. So, you want to focus on people that are hungry and want to make a difference.

3. Pick men and women who know Jesus. What we're talking about here is picking people that have already made a commitment to Jesus Christ and He lives in their hearts and now they want to not only grow and develop themselves, but they also want to make a difference. You have challenged them with what Jesus wants every believer and follower to do and that is to multiply and make disciples.

4. Look for people that are FAT.

- F stands for faithful. Look for faithful people who will meet regularly with you. When you lay out the expectations of the disciple-making process, they are going to commit and keep their commitment. They're not going to no-show. They're not going to come unprepared. They're not going to make excuses.
- A stands for available. Listen, everybody's busy but if someone is too busy to make disciples or to be disciplined, they're too busy. If we are connected to Jesus Christ and this is his agenda, we're put here on this planet to do his agenda, not our own. So, look for people that are available.
- T stands for teachable. I think one of the great marks of a humble, yet growing individual is that he or she does not claim to know it all. They want to learn. They're thirsty. They're hungry. They're teachable. They want to know more. They want to do what the Scripture says to do.

5. Look for people who want to make a lasting impact. People who want to leave a legacy. There is no greater way on the planet to leave a legacy for Christ than to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples, because that will go on way way past the time you and I have gone home to be with Jesus. A lot of people will meet with you and take your time and enjoy being with you but then will go do nothing with it. I call those people moochers. There are moochers in the body of Christ who want all the goodies and all the benefits for themselves, but they don't intend to do anything with what they are given. Pick the kind of people who want to make a difference.

6. This is the big one: Pray! And then pray some more, and then pray some more for the right people to disciple.

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