

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 18: Expectations of the Disciple

In Matthew 28:19 when Jesus says “Go therefore into all the world and make disciples” he assumes the going. The command is to make disciples. Once you focus on somebody that you want to disciple, then what are the expectations? This is really important. You will get what you ask for as you enter into the disciple-making process. If you ask for a little, you'll get a little. If you ask for a lot, you just might get a lot.

It's very important that you have expectations. Over the years I have met with a lot of folks and one of the things I failed to do for so many years was to ask for certain commitments and expectations and lay those out very clearly in the beginning. This is a critical piece of the process of making disciples

Here are a few important things to remember:

1. This to me is the most important. Ask the person for the commitment on the front end. “If you want me to take you on and disciple you, then I expect you to reproduce when we're finished.” In other words, you want them to make a commitment to disciple others before you ever start the process, to engage in the same process with someone else each year. This is absolutely critical. I know a lot of people that meet with others to build a basic base of faith, some of the essentials, into a person's life, but very few ask that person to reproduce that impact in the life of another person. If we don't reproduce, we're not doing what Jesus said to do.
2. Meet weekly. If you meet once a month or twice a month and you happen to miss one of those times, you end up meeting once every four or five weeks. Meet weekly and make that commitment to have an hour or an hour and 15 minutes where you're beginning to walk through this process.
3. Come prepared. You need to read and prepare so that you can share with one another what you're learning and go apply it. Read, share and apply. So when you go through The Four Priorities, you each will read what's there and underline and make notes in the margin. Come prepared with questions. Dig into the chapter in an attempt to understand it, to learn from it, and then to apply it.
4. Be willing to consistently apply what you're learning each week in terms of living it out in your daily life.

So there we go! Reproduce, meet weekly, come prepared, and consistently apply. Matthew 28 tells us to “go therefore into all the world and make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.” But here’s what I want you to remember: to know and not to do is not to know at all. You think about that.

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