

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 21: The Process of Disciple-Making

In Matthew 28, Jesus said “Go therefore into all the world and make disciples” or disciple-makers. Jesus had a plan and still has a plan to change the planet. We’ve talked about people who say things like “God can’t use me. I can’t make disciples.” Now we want to look at what the process of making a disciple-maker involves.

There is more involved in making disciples than just hanging out with somebody. Now, I’m all for relationships and making disciple-makers is highly relational. Some people say, “Well we just hang out together, we talk, we might have a little prayer.” That’s fine, but that’s not enough.

The main map for making disciples is the Scripture (the Bible). There are 66 books in the Bible, so where do you start with somebody? Even if you met for the next 20 years with somebody and went through every book of the Bible it would be very difficult for the average follower of Christ to be able to take 66 books and then transfer that into the life of another person. What we need is a road map that will basically lay out a faith foundation, the essentials of the faith, in a person’s life. We’re living in a day and time when, biblically and theologically, most believers do not have a good grasp of the basics of the faith. If the word theology scares you, just know that it simply means what you believe about God, which should be based upon the Bible.

I looked over the years for a CliffsNotes version of everything Jesus taught and then I came across this passage years ago in Matthew 22:35-39: “Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question, testing him, saying ‘Teacher, which is the Great Commandment in the law?’” Jesus never hesitated. He didn’t stutter. He came right to the point in verse 37: “And Jesus said to him ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and Great Commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.’”

So out of that passage we get four priorities, and we have put together a book (titled The Four Priorities) based on Matthew 22:37-39 that acts as a roadmap for the disciple-making process. The first priority is a personal progressive commitment to Jesus Christ. Priority number two is a personal progressive commitment to loving yourself. Notice what he said: “The second commandment is like the first: that you love your neighbor as you love yourself.” I will only be able to love somebody else to the degree that I love myself, and I will only be able to love myself to the degree that I know how much God loves me. The third priority is a personal progressive

commitment to loving other believers and priority four is a personal progressive commitment to loving those in the world who don't know Christ.

As I studied this for many, many years, I learned that everything Jesus said in the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) falls under one of those four priorities. These are the essentials that I need to know, live out daily by God's grace, and intentionally pass along to other people. The goal is then for those people not only to know it and live it out, but to multiply into the lives of other people, so that the exponential factor can kick in. That's how we can change the planet.

What's next?

- Check out more blogs and podcasts at TheTolsonGroup.com
- To schedule John to speak at your next event, email info@thetolsongroup.com
- Purchase a copy of [The Four Priorities](https://TheTolsonGroup.com/store) at TheTolsonGroup.com/store

Find John on social media!

[@DrJohnTolson](https://twitter.com/DrJohnTolson)

