

BEING A DISCIPLE:

Continuity & Multiplication

The hoped-for outcome or fruit of discipleship is **continuity** and **multiplication**.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 1

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

We see many examples of this in scripture:-

- Abraham - Isaac - Jacob (multiplication)
- Jesus - disciples - nations (multiplication)
- Paul - sons (e.g. Timothy and Titus) - faithful men and woman - others

Usually most moves of God break down in the second generation. Therefore, the envisioned multiplication doesn't take place, and the next generation have to begin again from the start.

We are wrong to believe it's only about our generation. If we are true Kingdom builders, overcoming means setting up the next generation, (our sons and daughters), for success. We see the true heart of discipleship reflected in the following passage of scripture: -

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

14 I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 18 Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. 21 What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

CONTINUITY

Judges 2:7-10

7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years. 9 And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

- No continuity
- The nation was plunged into cycles of sin, servitude, supplication and salvation
- Very little or no multiplication

MULTIPLICATION

- The prophetic vision of God often spans many generations, and will take many generations of continuity to get to the point of fruition and multiplication. There will always be the possible danger, the enemy will see to that, of dropping the baton on the way.
- Each current generation is charged with setting up the next generation with godly vision of Kingdom success. Then, reaching all the world with the Gospel becomes possible.
- We would be naive and a little foolish to believe it all starts and ends with us in the current generation! Sure, we have our road marked ahead for us, but it continues on with the next generation.
- The discipleship process of scripture ensures both continuity, and MULTIPLICATION!
- We are going to use texts in the book of Acts to show a picture of an ever increasing and multiplying church, as the word of God multiplies and grows in power and authority. The teaching and spree of the word of God constitutes the heart of discipleship.

Acts 6:7

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 9:31

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Acts 12:24

But the word of God increased and multiplied.

Acts 13:49

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

Acts 16:5

So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Acts 19:8-10

8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. 10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:20

So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Therefore, unapologetically, we want to see every believer involved with the discipleship process. This involves the study of God's word - the water level of God's word in our lives and in our togetherness as a church, MUST keep growing! Then, we will have continuity and multiplication.

The challenge from two weeks back stands!

Practically (we keep plugging these points)

- Relationships
 - Everyone a follower of Jesus
 - Everyone relationally connected
- Integrated into the local church
 - Vision - What we've been called to do?
 - Values - What is important to us?
 - Vehicles - How we get it done?
 - Congregational meetings (Sunday morning)
 - Small groups (Life groups)
 - Bible study (Equipping) and prayer, Wednesday evenings
- Equipping
 - Through our relationships
 - On the job training
 - Through our equipping courses
 - Explain the 3 tracks of equipping
 - Explain how we are going to start
 - Explain the importance of this value celebrated across all the sites.
- Opportunity and function
 - Every believer a fisher of men
 - Every believer serving and functioning with their gift
 - Every believer prepared for the home and away games