

60. QUALITIES YOU NEED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-26.

Aim: To make us the most effective disciple makers possible and show us the areas lacking in our disciple making ministry.

Introduction:

Many people train at Bible College and yet fail when they seek to have an effective people ministry later on. We are all convinced that:

- i) people without Christ go to hell, and
- ii) the Great Commission is important to us today.

Yet how can we have an effective, fruitful ministry for Christ? I wish to share some things that are big in my life as I seek to make disciples of people for Jesus Christ. We need:

1. **LOVE** for God, the Bible and people.

"The greatest of these is charity (*God's agape love*)". 1 Corinthians 13:13.

"The love of Christ constrains us". 2 Corinthians 5:14.

"Love one another with a pure heart fervently". 1 Peter 1:22.

"They shall prosper that love thee (Jerusalem)". Psalm 122:6.

"I will love thee O Lord, my strength". Psalm 18:1.

"I have loved the habitation of thy house". Psalm 26:8.

"A friend loveth at all times". Proverbs 17:17.

We need love for Christ, believers, the house of God, lost people and the Bible because our patience is going to be tried. We will be hurt, insulted, rejected and misunderstood.

2. **ZEAL.** "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." John 2:17.

Christ was zealous for the honour of God's name, that all people hold it highly. We should have an intense desire to build a church for God's glory. Are you obsessed with zeal to get people saved and built up, to make disciples to present to Jesus Christ as trophies of grace? Are you zealous against the cults who push lies about God and deceive people into hell? You get zeal as you stay close to God. Zeal can stop you backsliding into laziness.

3. **PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION**

"And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Gal. 6:9 Here God promises us success if we persevere.

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5,6

Never give up because you never know what great person you may win to Christ. Just think of what success God has given you so far as an encouragement.

4. **STUDY AND KNOW THE BIBLE**

If you delight in the law of the Lord and meditate in it day and night, whatever you do will prosper. (eg: discipling) Psalm 1:2,3.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God." 2 Timothy 2:15.

"Take..... the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:17.

"Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Psalm 138:2.

If you don't know the Bible then:

- i) you can't disciple people.
- ii) you can't refute Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Catholics, etc.
- iii) you can't stay on fire, keen and motivated.

5. **BE A SOUL-WINNER, DO DOOR KNOCKING**

"He that winneth souls is wise". Proverbs 11:30.

"I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house." Luke 16:27.

When you door knock you may tell people: "Excuse me, someone you know has asked for me to come to your house to tell you something very important on how to go to heaven and avoid what he is going through." See Luke 16:27.

"Daily in the Temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach & preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42

"They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever". Daniel 12:3.

Soul winning results in:

- i) you staying keen.
- ii) the church growing.
- iii) people spending forever in heaven.

Are you a soul winner?

6. **BE COURAGEOUS AND FEARLESS**

"The fear of man bringeth a snare". Proverbs 29:25.

"We ought to obey God rather than man". Acts 5:29.

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear". 2 Timothy 1:7.

"The battle is the Lord's". 1 Samuel 17:47.

"Come and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few". 1 Samuel 14:6. (Jonathan's idea was, let's give it a go, you never know what good may happen).

"We may boldly say: The Lord is my helper: I will not fear what man shall do unto me". Hebrews 13:6.

Discipline yourself to go doorknocking every week and don't fear what people will say to you. If they reject you, go find someone else.

7. BE A BIBLE TEACHER

You build a church on three things: soul winning, prayer and Bible teaching.

Paul tells Timothy to "Preach the Word". 2 Timothy 4:2.

Jesus tells Peter to "Feed my sheep". John 21:16.

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine". Acts 2:42.

"Paul and Barnabus continued in Antioch teaching and preaching the word of the Lord". Acts 15:35

There is a need for:

- i) expository teaching.
- ii) apply it to their lives.
- iii) use illustrations.
- iv) buy helpful books to feed the flock.
- v) set up a Bible college in your church.

People want to hear God's Word and what it says about how they should live.

8. PLAN FOR GROWTH

Never be content unless new people are getting saved and coming to church each week. If your church doesn't grow it will die. Plan to double every one or two years. Get as many people in your church as possible working in a ministry. People grow as they are personally discipled and have their questions answered. Have a vision of reaching 100, 500, 1000 or more and plan how to get there.

9. CHURCH PLANTING

Set your long term goal as winning Australia for Christ by starting Bible teaching, soul winning churches in every Australian town. Everywhere Paul went on his first, second and third missionary journeys his goal was to set up churches in each city to propagate the Gospel after his death. Follow the example of some US churches with 5,000 people attending weekly. Give your life to it.

10. FIGHT THE DEVIL

We are in a very intense spiritual warfare over the souls of men. Satan's forces will attack you in many different ways. Look to Jesus in all these attacks. Some attacks will be:

- i) false doctrine causing you to separate from Godly men.
- ii) Pastors and other Christian workers will offend you.
- iii) you can get sidetracked chasing money in a job and not doing soul winning, disciple making and church planting.
- iv) beware of adultery and fornication.
- v) laziness.
- vi) running away from problems. Make sure that you face people with problems.
- vii) Pride: people want to be number one.

11. PRAY MUCH

Prayer is where we defeat the forces of Satan that keep people in bondage. Prayer keeps us close to God. We protect our people by a hedge of prayer. Prayer fills us

with the Holy Spirit. Prayer reveals to us the will of God. Prayer focuses the power of God through our life. Prayer makes you strong and courageous in God's work.

12. LINK IN WITH STRONG BELIEVERS

Realise that you can't do it all by yourself. Have people that will encourage you in the Lord. Other strong believers will give you new ideas that you are not aware of. Paul did his missionary work in a team.

13. GOOD MARRIAGE

1 Timothy 3:4,5,11. Rule your own house well. Your children must be in subjection. Wives must be grave, sober and faithful. Spend quality time daily with your wife and children so that you will stay close to them. If they go off the rails into rebellion, you ought not to be a pastor. Get your wife doing a ladies ministry. Give your children reasons why they believe. Your marriage will be a pattern of other marriages in the church. Don't take your wife for granted, but love her.

14. LEADERSHIP

We lead by means of:

- i) humility.
- ii) being a servant.
- iii) training your workers.
- iv) creating an atmosphere of excitement in serving God.
- v) lead by example: to get them to jump one inch, you must jump one foot.
- vi) spending time with people especially when they have problems.
- vii) wisdom is the principal thing. Proverbs 4:7.

15. INITIATIVE

Don't be lazy. Get up and do things for God. William Carey said,

"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

"Lord thy pound hath gained 10 pounds". Luke 19:16.

If one thing doesn't work, try something else. Use your God-given brains. Ask God for new ideas to win more people to Christ. Have faith to try things. If we are faithful on earth now, we will have authority over 10 cities later. If you want a great ministry some day, be a reliable servant in little things now.

16. BE ENTHUSIASTIC and EXCITED

Angels rejoice when people get saved. When you win a person to Christ, you have made a friend forever. Be happy about having good Christian friends.

17. CULTIVATE A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Get to know God really well through: the Word of God, suffering, prayer, obedience and working with people in soul winning and disciple making.

18. MAKE SURE YOU PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

Otherwise people will call you a hypocrite. "A Bishop must be blameless". 1 Timothy 3:2.

You must be 100% honest and approachable.

19. STAY IN ONE AREA FOR A LONG TIME

Be patient to build a strong foundation over a long period of time. Some pastors have problems in one church so they run away to another Church to escape. This kills the compounding effect of their past years in the church.

20. CONQUER REJECTION

"Yea and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution". 2 Timothy 3:12.

"Therefore, endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ". 2 Timothy 2:3.

Don't let people who reject you turn you away from your life's goal and ministry. Don't take rejection personally. They are rejecting Christ, not you.

21. IMPART A VISION OF MULTIPLICATION

2 Timothy 2:2. Paul taught Timothy who taught faithful men, who taught others. If you and they win and train one person per year to win and train another person each, you will double each year. In 10 years you will have 1000 people saved. In 20 years you will have 1,000,000 people saved. In 30 years you will have one billion people saved. Teach this to all those that you disciple.

22. CONCENTRATE ON THOSE WHO ARE REALLY INTERESTED

See if they become interested after a few home Bible studies. Don't waste time on people who don't care. "Commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2.

23. BE A GOOD LISTENER

"Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath". James 1:19.

24. START A BIBLE COLLEGE

Start a Bible College in your church to train workers and pastors to go and start more churches. Teach the material in this book.

25. HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR

This is a release for pressure. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22.

CONCLUSION:

Are you really determined by God's grace to make disciples? Spend time with a new convert for 6 - 8 weeks studying this material.