



Marketplace Ministry Formation

Spiritual Exercise

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1John 5:14-15

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD;

Teach me Your paths.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You *are* the God of my salvation;

On You I wait all the day. Psalm 25:4-5

Introduction

As God reveals His plan for accomplishing the purpose He has for each of us, we discover that He has His own way for getting things done. His ways – though sometimes uncomfortable – are the best ways. In today's lesson we will explore two more of His ways: The way of unity and the way of making disciples. Both are related to the formation of marketplace ministry in a church, community, business or other marketplace setting (e.g., school board, government office).

First, we will search out the importance of unity in the kingdom of God. In the lesson on Counting the Cost – Our Investment we discovered that loving one another is a requirement of discipleship. We discussed that the pronoun "you" is plural over 85% of the times it is used in the New Testament. This includes Jesus' command for our work:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. John 5:16

But, there is more. In this lesson we will explore the desire of Christ, and the power of God, for unity. In both, we will find the blessings that come with our desire unity in our spheres of influence.

The second topic we will explore is how to make disciples God's way. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." Discipleship is the way we enter into the work God is doing to redeem the world to Himself and get back those things He lost in the Garden. Bonhoeffer also said, "Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life." If this is true – and it is – then we would be wise to make the most of our investment.

Definition

Equip (from *katartizō*): to render fit, sound, complete; to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair; to complete; to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust; to fit or frame for one's self, prepare; ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be. *Blue Letter Bible Outline of Biblical Usage*

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Edify (*oikodomē*): (the act of) building, building up; the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness; a building (i.e. the thing built, edifice).

Blue Letter Bible Outline of Biblical Usage

Disciple-makers are called to equip and edify the body of Christ, into the fullness of Christ, in the love of Christ. The Greek word translated equip is a medical term used for setting a bone during surgery. It is best understood as "making fully qualified for service". Edify means to "build up" – like the brick-by-brick construction of a temple (on top of the Chief Cornerstone). Clearly, this text describes the Lord's prescription for the growth of the Christ's church.

It is important to note that making disciples and building the church are not the same thing; and the latter is not our responsibility. Jesus said that He would build His church (Matthew 16:18). We must avoid the presumption of doing the work that only He can do, and concentrate on our part in His endeavor. What some would call a church can be built without making disciples, but it will not be a part of the church Christ is building. As we embrace our role, we will understand that Christ is dependent on the commitment of His disciples to be disciple-makers; and He has taken responsibility to build His church through those that will share in His purpose. Disciple-makers share the heart of Christ in His purpose to build His church.

Searching Out the Matter

(All Scripture references, but those noted, are NKJV; Thomas Nelson, Inc.; footnotes excluded)

The Purpose and Power of Unity

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

² It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the LORD commanded the blessing—
Life forevermore.

Psalm 133

Dwelling together in unity is like the priestly anointing (think, Holy Spirit) and the LORD's blessing for eternal fruit-bearing life. Can have either without unity? As we examine our hearts for the things that separate us from each other, we should ask ourselves, "Are they worth it?"

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 17:20-23

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Anointed One, has been praying this prayer to His Father – our Awesome and Fearsome God – for over 2000 years. Notice that Jesus is praying for the Father to accomplish this unity. He is not asking us to make it happen. We have tried and failed. Let's us turn to the Father in agreement with Christ's prayer, and surrender to His work. It will be to our great benefit in at least two ways:

1. From verse 21, we can see that our unity with Christ and our Father in Heaven is dependent on our unity with one another.

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2. From verse 23 we learn that our unity will convince the world of the Father's love in sending His son. It is the only prescription for evangelism in the New Testament. It is a way of God that we must desire and pursue.

Lastly, notice that our unity is so important to Christ that He has given the glory He received from the Father to us that it might be accomplished. This is an incredible mystery we will explore in another lesson. For now, we can ask ourselves, would He give it to those that will not use it to accomplish its intended result?

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

Those that walk worthy of their calling endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit. Endeavor sounds like effort. Unity is hard work. It will not come to the passive.

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-16

Consider the importance of unity: Christ Himself gave five powerful gifts to the church that we would all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Him. Consider the power of unity: maturity unto a perfect man (the fullness of Christ); protection from deception; the ability to speak the truth in love; effective working in our fellowships; and growth of the body (for more edification). All these come from the unity of the followers of Christ.

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Colossians 3:12-14

The holy, beloved elect of God have been given the bond of perfection: Unconditional love for one another. And we have been called in one body – a joined and knit together many-membered body, not a dismembered one. We must respond as we are called if we are to be chosen (see Matthew 22:14).

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I *am* of Apollos," are you not carnal? 1Corinthians 3:1-4

Finally, Paul makes it clear that our divisions mark us as carnal. As carnal, we are not qualified for the solid food of the word. We are left to the elementary principles and, therefore, in danger of falling away (see Hebrews 5:12-6:8).

In conclusion, let us remember that the call to unity is not a higher bar that we must strive to reach. Quite the contrary, it is a gift that the Lord and the Father have given us to enjoy. May we find the grace to lay hold of that which Christ has laid hold of us (Philippians 3:12).

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Making Disciples God's Way

A Google search for "discipleship resources" will return "approx. 311,000 results (in 0.07 seconds)"! A search for "discipleship" on ChristianBook.com returns 6379 resources. Refining that search to "disciple-making" returned (only?) 311 resources. Just imagine, if you could read one "disciple-making" book a week, it would take you six years to complete your research. And, as someone has noted, there would be five or ten more written; and you might write one yourself.

Any way you look at it, we don't lack for resources when it comes to the Great Commission. So what's gone wrong? Why is it taking so long for man to complete the primary task Jesus left to us?

God lost three things when man rebelled against Him in the Garden of Eden – and He plans to get them back. What He has done for us – in the midst of His story – is so wonderful; we find it hard not to assume that the story is about us. But it's not, really. In fact, the story of the Bible is about Him getting back what He lost. That's right! The story is about Him.

The end of the story – found in the last three chapters of Revelation – gives an exciting view into God's restoration plan. In the end, He will restore: His life with man (their relationship); an abiding place within man (His habitation); and, His reign in the heart of man (His throne). All three can be seen in Revelation 21:3:

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men (relationship), and He will dwell with them (habitation), and they shall be His people (reign). God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

It is by grace that we might become an important part of His story; but it is critical that we see His plan from His perspective.

It's something like the loving father whose son has carelessly broken the family lawnmower. The father could easily fix the mower, or pay someone else to do the work. Instead, he allows the son to participate in the mower's restoration – they work together to fix the mower. In the process, the father exercises his authority, abides with his son, and deepens their relationship.

And so, we have Jesus spending three years with the disciples showing them how to be a disciple and how to "go and make disciples". Have you ever considered that He could have died, been buried and rose again in less than a week? But that was not His only mission. He also came to show the disciples how they might have a kingdom life as the abiding place of God (reign, relationship, and habitation). Having completed that work, He commissioned them to do the same:

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

John 20:21

Notice that Jesus was sent. This is news to some. Also, that we are sent in the same way, and, in our limited capacities, to do the same things. Recognizing the deeper meaning of this, A. W. Tozer said, "Only a disciple can make a disciple." Tozer understood – as we must – that Jesus was not only the first disciple maker... He was the first disciple. He did exactly what He expected of us – **be a disciple in making disciples.**

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. John 5:30

Christ said it Himself: He could do nothing apart from the Father. His judgment was righteous, not because of anything He had done, now because of who He was, but because He sought the will of the Father. His mission was about the Father's will and work, not His own.

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³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him.”

John 10:37-38

Jesus is saying that our belief in Him is required based on Him doing the works of His Father. Who's works were they? They were the Father's works. And it was the works that proved the Father was in Him. In other words, the Father was doing the works out of Christ.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵ And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. ⁴⁶ I have come *as* a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. ⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

John 12:44-50

Notice that belief in Christ is not belief in Him, but in the Father. And the one we see is not Him, but the Father. Then, He is only saying what the Father has commanded Him to say. What is Christ trying to say? It a mystery, but He seems to be saying, “It's not Me, it's the Father.”

⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

John 14:7-11

Again, Jesus is doing everything He can to reveal the Father that is in Him. It is the Father who does the work. Therefore, the works prove that the Father and He are one, because only the Father in Him could be doing the work that they are seeing. And that is why He could immediately say...

¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.”

John 14:12-14

We are able to do the same works as Christ because, like Him, we are not doing the work. More amazing, now that He has gone to the Father, the works will be greater. Referring to John 17:23 passage, the Father will be in Christ and Christ will be in us. “How can this be?”, you might ask. Well, because this is how God the Father determined that it would work.

It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they call those of his household!

Matthew 10:25

While this passage refers directly to the persecution we can expect from the religious, it also suggests that we are to be like our Teacher and Master – disciple-making disciples.

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are

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already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15:1-8

Notice that Jesus said the same thing about us – “without Me you can do nothing” – that He said about Himself – “I can of Myself do nothing” (John 5:30). This is a striking and intentional revelation. We are like Him in the work He will accomplish through us as His ambassadors. And it goes even beyond our work.

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

John 20:21-23

Remember, Jesus said that the authority He had was not His own, but the Father’s. It is the same with us. The Father has given Him authority (Matthew 28:18) to send us as He was sent. By inference, we go in that authority.

This understanding may be new to you. It will certainly be new to many you are called to disciple. It may help to consider what is called the exchanged life. We will explore this further in another session. For now, consider the following passages.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 16:25

As we receive and believe the truth of the exchanged life, the life of Christ becomes ours in every aspect of our living. Like Christ, who submitted to the Father’s life in Him, we find His life doing that which is a natural part of the normal Christian life. It is what we were created to experience. It is our creation as the very image of God (Genesis 1:27). It is that into which we are renewed (Colossians 3:10) and transformed (2Corinthians 3:18).

How will It Look... Anticipations

Christ was sent by God to both make a way for our salvation (i.e., restoration of man into His story), and to show us what it means to be a disciple and a disciple maker. He only did what the Father was doing; and He did it God’s way. Christ’s final instructions to the disciples reveal the immediate blessings and the Father’s expectations in our being made a disciple, and in making disciples, His way.

These instructions (aka, commission) are found in each of the Gospels and in the first chapter of Acts. Read each account, and consider the following highlights:

Matthew 28:16-20

1. Christ first established that He had been given the authority to commission them.
2. He expected them to go to all the nations.
3. Baptizing was an important expectation (and worth searching out).

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4. They were not to just teach Christ's commands, but to teach them to observe the commands. From Vines Dictionary, this means to "to watch over, preserve" – a word close to "steward".

Mark 16:14-20

1. Signs will follow those who believe – they are for the church, not the unsaved.
2. These signs are supernatural and involve the spiritual realm.
3. Though it was His followers that went out and preached, it was the "Lord working".

Luke 24:44-53

1. An understanding of the Old Testament was important – particularly as it relates to Christ.
2. Repentance and remission of sins are an important part of the message.
3. It was important to note that He blessed them.
4. The result was great joy, and them praising and blessing God.

John 20:19-23

1. Disciple making produces peace – the peace of God that transcends all understanding.
2. Evidence of Christ's suffering and sacrifice are a part of the disciple maker's character.
3. Jesus sends His disciple makers as the Father sent Him – to do only what He is doing. A properly made disciple has exchanged their life for Christ's.
4. The Holy Spirit is given by Christ, and must be received by the one being made.
5. Incredibly, disciples are given the authority to forgive and retain sins. This speaks both to our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ and to our Heavenly Father's trust in His children.

Acts 1:4-8

1. There is not only a baptism in water, but one in the Holy Spirit. This baptism requires a "waiting".
2. This baptism "when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" precludes the disciple bearing witness to Jesus Christ, wherever they are sent.

Most of the church leaders I know have not experienced the results described in Christ's last instructions to His disciples – His commissioning. Isn't it supposed to be a "Great Commission"? Didn't He say we would do greater things than even He did? Perhaps a return to the way God, through Christ, did it is what we need. Perhaps it is time to lay down the lesser ways for the great way that He left us.

Notice that He was making them into what He was. He was apprenticing them. It is important that those we are formally discipling know that it is apprenticing, not educating. It is also important that they understand who is discipling them (Jesus). As disciple-makers, we are instruments – it is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

You cannot be a disciple-maker until you have been made one yourself. Once you are made one and you begin to make others, you will find that you are still being made. It is that glory to glory transformation.

Disciple-making occurs in seasons and cycles. The first disciples were made in approximately three years (a season), then they began a new cycle, making disciples (as Christ commanded in the commissioning). A careful look at the commission reveals its perpetuating nature: Go and make disciples, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you – including this command (to go and make disciples).

Disciple-makers must be able to cast vision. Disciple-makers must know the purpose for the season and the group they have been called to disciple. The disciples may not know the purpose, or they may be confused about the ultimate assignment. This may be the most frustrating thing about disciple-making – casting vision and motivating a group of people that do not completely understand the ultimate purpose or assignment.

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Sometimes, all the disciple-maker has is the Psalm 37:4 desires and the general encouragement to be more like Christ. Therefore, it is important to establish God's perspective on who they were (generally) called to be: Mighty Men of God, greater than the greatest prophet, to do greater works than Christ.

It is also important to keep in mind that there are grand scheme purposes (e.g., Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 4:11-16) and specific purposes (e.g., introduce prayer into a High School, take a mission trip, minister to the homeless).

By sharing the truth they know, disciple-makers are used by God to make people free from:

1. Satan's oppression and deception
2. The world's influence and snares
3. The lusts of their own carnal nature

A disciple-maker must know how to handle the truth. It may not mean what I say it means, but it must mean something. Find the meaning for you. God's ways and thoughts are far above ours. Therefore, it is foolish to think we have a corner on the truth. Truth found in community is "and", not "or". We must seek it in humility and in community.

No one will make the journey/adventure to joyful, Spirit-filled ministry alone. The "your" in the New Testament is most often plural. Discipleship is like a holy multilevel marketing campaign. The disciple is made to disciple others. Every Marketplace Leader is responsible to God for the people within their spheres of influence.

Discipleship is not a program, nor is it a time slot set aside for an assigned few to teach the masses something that they wish those listening would consider. God uses these things as part of His discipling "formula", but they are only a part. Discipleship is far, far more than what it has become in most American churches.

Discipleship is THE prescription for church growth and maturity (see Ephesians 4:10-16). Discipleship is a lifestyle – for both the disciple-maker and the disciple. "Go and make disciples..." was the last and most important of Christ's commands because it encompassed all the others ("...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you").

Christ is the ultimate example for who we are to be as disciple-makers. In fact, He is still the One that is doing the making. We are the instruments of His work. This explains why many are involved in the making of one. Thank God He has assigned more than one person to be my disciple-maker. Most have been for a season - many for only a moment – but they have all been Christ's instrument to make me His disciple (and His disciple-maker).

Assignment

1. Review your notes and the Scripture passages from this week's module. Share the ones that are most meaningful to someone you are discipling.
2. How does this understanding of "disciple" changed your perspective of your relationship with Christ? How does this impact the disciple making God is doing in you? How does this impact the disciple making God is doing through you?
3. Consider the Christ's expectations in our disciple making. Which are most intriguing to you? Commit to explore these further. They may lead to God's purpose for you.
4. Do any of Christ's expectations expose a fear? Remember, behind every fear there is a lie. Deal with the lie and the fear will fly. Commit to deal with the lie.

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Devotion

To Transform a City (Tim Keller; 03/07/2011) – Attached

What does it look like for a Marketplace Leader to be a disciple-maker?

When Jesus told His disciples to go and make disciples, He was not “calling” them like it was an invitation; no, He was commanding them to do what He had done for them. And He did not leave them wondering what it meant to “make disciples”. His life with them was invested in their preparation through His teaching and leadership, and the experiences He led them through.

Disciple-making is something the Lord intended His church to continue until His return. While some might argue that this command was not given to all Christians, there is no doubt that those in positions of influence and authority have been given this awesome responsibility for His Kingdom. It is a simple matter of obedience; and love for our King. It is not a burden, but a privilege. It is to be embraced, not avoided (nor excused away).

The intention of this article is to explore the definition, purpose and plan of disciple-making, as modeled by Jesus Christ. I am confident in the Lord – that He will use it to encourage and empower Marketplace Leaders in their pursuit of joyful, Spirit-filled ministry – ministry that includes making disciples. He has prepared you for this grave time in the history of the American church.

The term disciple, in today’s understanding, is much more like apprentice than student. A disciple lived with the teacher (versus visiting a classroom once a week). A disciple’s intention was to become like his teacher – to take on the teacher’s lifestyle and character. When Jesus told the twelve, “Come and I will make you...”, they knew He was inviting them to a transformed life (though they had no clue how radical it would be).

They also expected to be made into men that would carry on His “trade”, so to speak. And that is what He did with one significant distinction. Jesus did not commission the disciples to make disciples of themselves, but disciples like them – those that would “observe all things that I have commanded you”. Today’s disciple-makers are called to the very same commission.

Jesus Christ’s plan for making disciples includes three key components – leading, teaching, and providing opportunities for an experience of His life and power. Let’s take a look at each one:

Leading – Jesus led by example. He prayed through the night to know the Father’s will in all things. He confronted the enemies of God – both physical and spiritual. He called the children to Himself. He ate with sinners. He died for His friends. He washed the disciples’ feet to show them that humility and service were the mark of a great leader; and then He commanded them to do the same.

All disciple-makers are given authority – by the Highest Authority. The key is to learn and practice servant leadership; authority “for”, not authority “over”.

Teaching – Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14) – and taught the disciples what His Kingdom was like (e.g., treasure, pearl, “a man who...”). He came to rescue the captives – and shared the truth that would set them free. He left them 50 commandments – and said that in keeping them, His disciples would abide in His love. He knew had to leave them – and He promised that the Holy Spirit would come to teach them all things.

Christ’s plan for teaching disciples is really quite simple. It requires that we share the truth of His Kingdom, His mission, His commandments, and His love; all in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Experience – Jesus provided many opportunities for His disciples to experience the supernatural life He was calling them to. There is a book that relates John’s gospel in the first person. While I have long forgotten the

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title and author, his recollection of helping to feed the five thousand continues to stir my heart. Oh, how it must have felt to continue pulling bread and fish from a basket. And let's not forget that He sent out the twelve (and the seventy) to heal the sick and cast out demons. Each time, they returned amazed at the power of His name.

The eyes of our Father in Heaven are roaming to and fro about the earth seeking to show Himself strong on behalf of the disciple-makers who will provide others with the opportunity to experience His power and glory.

Jesus Christ knew what He was doing when He commissioned and empowered the first disciples to be disciple-makers. He knows what He is doing now in calling Marketplace Leaders to this privilege and responsibility. He intends (yes, intends) this adventure to be beyond your capability – for two reasons. First, and foremost, He wants to empower you in such a way that you know it is Him doing the work – for the Father's glory. Second, He wants you to need others to help you get it done – for the unity of His body. He has created ministries, like inLight Consulting, to help you fulfill His calling and your destiny. I hope you will let us assist you.

Your servant and His,

Rob