

HOW DO I MAKE DISCIPLES



WHO MAKE DISCIPLES?

The Meissen Apostles



The Apostle John

The antique statues of the twelve Apostles pictured on the title slide were copied from the colossal marble statues in the Archbasilica of the Lateran in Rome in 1775 by the great royal sculptor, Johann Joachim Kandler. They were executed in exquisite porcelain at the world-famous porcelain factory in Meissen, Germany. In the introduction to his book, *The Fabulous Meissen Apostles*, Charles Creighton wrote, “The twelve Apostles were selected by Jesus Christ. He sent them to proclaim the gospel to the whole world. It is clear that Christ ordained or made them Apostles. After Jesus had carefully set the twelve Apostles apart, He spent many intimate hours training them for the responsibilities which they would so gloriously assume after His Ascension.”

Introduction

The Gospel records reveal that Jesus invested approximately 3½ years of his life with a small group of men whom he called his disciples. His purpose was clear: that they might become like him and do what he asked them to do. During their apprenticeship, he loved them, taught them how to live, and prepared them to minister in his name around the world. When these men were first recruited by our Lord, they had no idea what was before them, neither the severe trials nor the intense blessings. Sometimes stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten, mocked, and banished, they continued to obey the call of their Lord to disciple the nations. Person to person, city by city, and nation by nation, they preached and taught in synagogues, arenas, marketplaces,

Introduction

and homes, then instructed those who received the free gift of eternal life in the words and ways of Jesus until they reached maturity. The Twelve had been well prepared. These untrained and uneducated men had become like their Master. It is not surprising, then, that their mission was not only centered on winning the masses, but on following Jesus' method of working with a few who, in time, would become spiritual reproducers themselves. For instance, Paul discipled Timothy & Titus; Peter trained John Mark; and John personally discipled the Christian leader and martyr Polycarp. Jesus' training had been so thorough and his strategy for world domination so effective, that by the end of the second century, the gospel had spread to every part of the Roman empire.



The Apostles

PETER AND ANDREW
JAMES AND JOHN (THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE)
PHILIP AND BARTHOLOMEW
THOMAS AND MATTHEW
JAMES (THE SON OF ALPHEUS) AND THADDAEUS
SIMON THE CANANAEAN, MATTHIAS, AND PAUL

These are the men who introduced the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. The late Sterling Professor in Missions and Oriental History at Yale University, Kenneth Scott Latourette (1884-1968), maintains that our records show that by A.D. 180, Christians were in all the provinces of the [Roman] Empire and in Mesopotamia. In just 150 years from the death and resurrection of Christ, these faithful men had proved “to be exceptionally good and noble men when they came before the world as leaders of a great movement, and were called on to carry out their responsibilities” (A.B. Bruce).



Bartholomew

James, brother of John

Matthew

John

James, of Alphaeus

Peter

Thomas

Simon the Zealot

Paul

Andrew

Thaddaeus

Philip



The Great Commission

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20).

“At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus commanded His disciples to proclaim the gospel to all nations and every person (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-47). This command extends until the end of time” (Carl W. Wilson).



Understanding Authority and Power

- The recipient of authority: Christ
- The giver of authority: the Father
- The meaning of *authority* as distinguished from *power*: *Authority* (Mt. 28:18) denotes the power which decides, thus expressing the invisible power of God. “Nothing takes place apart from the authority or will of God” (Kittel). *Power* (Acts 1:8) is intrinsic ability, external power. *Right* versus *Might*.
- The significance of Christ’s authority: “There is no place on this green earth where you can put your two feet where Jesus Christ is not in authority” (Stuart Briscoe).



A Sober Assessment

The starting point for effective personal evangelism does not depend upon our personalities, our giftedness or talents, our knowledge, our past or present experiences, our training, our methods, our intuition or reason, our associations, our courage, our apologetics, our ability to speak, our charisma, or our confidence, but on the sole authority of Jesus Christ over heaven and earth.

Jesus' Command

- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.”
- There are three participles in Matthew 28:19-20 (“a participle is an English verbal form that has the function of an adjective and at the same time shows such verbal features as tense and voice and capacity to take an object” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).
 - a) Going (or, as you go; wherever the Holy Spirit guides you)
 - b) Baptizing (into the triune name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
 - c) Teaching (not just content; teaching them to *observe* or *obey*)
- Main verb: *Make Disciples* (make new converts)



Jesus' Promise

“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:20).

- Christ will be *with* us wherever we go. “No one less than I myself am with you” (Henriksen).
- The significance of the preposition *with*. “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” (Heb. 13:5). “I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age” (*The Message*).
- The meaning of the promise: “The God of Israel, the Savior, is sometimes a God that hideth himself (Is. 45:15), but never a God that absenteth himself; sometimes in the dark, but never at a distance” (Matthew Henry).

Hendriksen on “Making Disciples”

- *Make disciples* is by itself an imperative. It is a brisk command, an order.
- *Make disciples* “is not exactly the same as *make converts*, though the latter is surely implied. The term *make disciples* places somewhat more stress on the fact that the mind, as well as the heart and will, must be won for God.”
- The apostle, then, must proclaim the truth and the will of God to the world. It is necessary that sinners *learn* about their own lost condition, God, his plan of redemption, his love, his law, etc. This, however, is not enough. True *discipleship* implies much more. Mere mental understanding does not as yet make one a disciple. It is part of the picture, in fact an important part, but only a part.



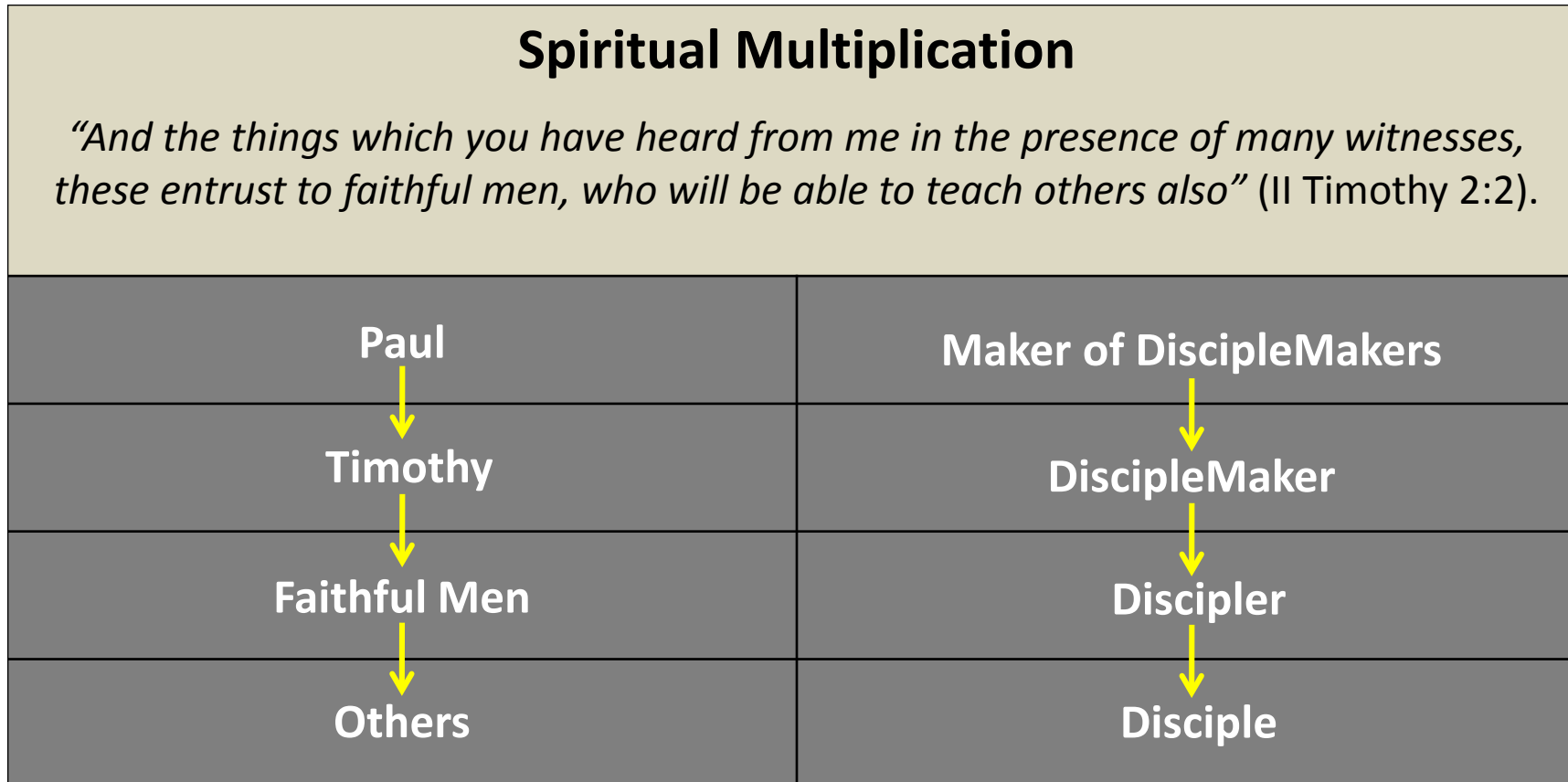
Hendriksen on “Making Disciples”

- The truth learned must be practiced. It must be appropriated by the heart, mind, and will, so that one *remains* or *abides* in the truth. Only then is one truly Christ’s disciple (John 8:31).
- “To abide means to remain, to stay closely connected, to settle in for the long term. With this picture Jesus is showing the disciples how an ongoing, vital connection with Him will directly determine the amount of His supernatural power is at work in their lives” (*Secrets of the Vine* by Bruce Wilkinson).

The Language of Disciplemaking

No.	Greek Word	Definition	Key Idea
1	matheteuo	To make a disciple of, to teach, instruct (transitive)	↓ Evangelism
2	mathetiao	To wish to become a disciple	↓ Spiritual Interest
3	matheteuo	To be or become a disciple or pupil of someone (intransitive)	↓ Conversion
4	mathetes mathetria	A male disciple A female disciple	↓ New Believer
5	mathetikos mathematikos	Disposed to learn, mathematical	↓ Spiritual Hunger
6	mathetos matheteos	Learned, that may be learned	↓ Growth Objectives
7	mathesis	Learning, the getting of knowledge	↓ Training
8	matheteia	Lesson, instruction	↓ Specific Lessons
9	mathema mathos	Something that is learned, a lesson, knowledge Knowledge, understanding	↓ Results

The Power of Spiritual Multiplication



Spiritual Multiplication

Year 1 1	Year 2 2	Year 3 4	Year 4 8	Year 5 16	Year 6 32	Year 7 64	Year 8 128
Year 9 256	Year 10 512	Year 11 1,024	Year 12 2,048	Year 13 4,096	Year 14 8,192	Year 15 16,384	Year 16 32,768
Year 17 65,536	Year 18 131,072	Year 19 262,144	Year 20 524,288	Year 21 1,048,576	Year 22 2,097,152	Year 23 4,194,304	Year 24 8,388,608
Year 25 16,777,216	Year 26 33,554,432	Year 27 67,108,864	Year 28 134,217,728	Year 29 268,435,456	Year 30 536,870,912	Year 31 1,073,741,824	Year 32 2,147,483,648
Year 33 4,294,967,296	Year 34 8,589,934,592						

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the world population estimate as of April 27, 2018 is **7,618,232,200**. The world population reached 6 billion on June 23, 1999 at 7:51 a.m. EDT.



Definition of Evangelism

“To evangelize is so to present Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in Him, to accept Him as their Saviour, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church.”

- *The Evangelistic Work of the Church*, London, 1918

Author unknown, perhaps William Temple