

HOW DO I MAKE DISCIPLES



WHO MAKE DISCIPLES?

# “Go and Bear Fruit”

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you” (John 15:16).





# Jesus' Strategy

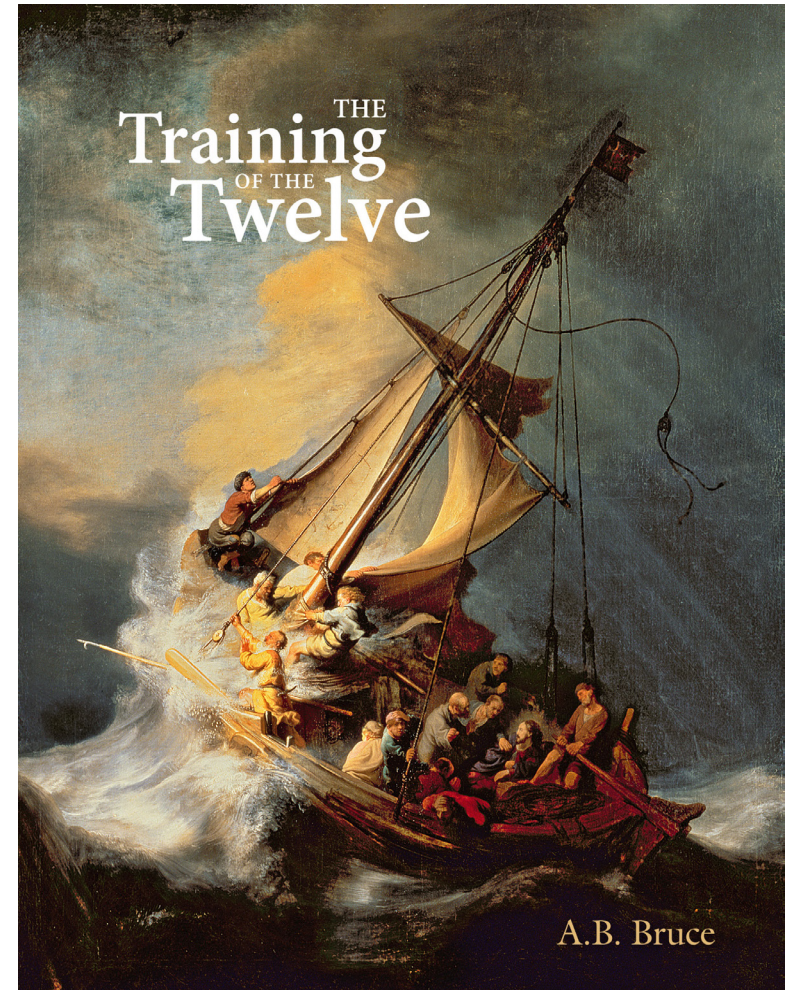
“Both from His words and from His actions, we can see that He attached supreme importance to that part of His work which consisted in training the Twelve. In His intercessory prayer (John 17:6), He speaks about the training He had given these men as if it had been the most important aspect of His own earthly ministry. In one sense, it really was. The careful, painstaking, education of the disciples ensured that the Teacher’s influence on the world would be permanent. His kingdom would be founded on the rock of deep and indestructible convictions in the minds of the few, not on the shifting sands of superficial, temporary impressions on the minds of the many...Therefore had it not been for the Twelve, the doctrine, the works, and the image of Jesus



# Jesus' Strategy

might have perished from human history, with nothing remaining but a vague, mythical tradition. It would have had no historical value and little practical influence" (A.B. Bruce, *The Training of the Twelve*).

*"I manifested Thy name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word" (Jn. 17:6).*



# Jesus' Strategy

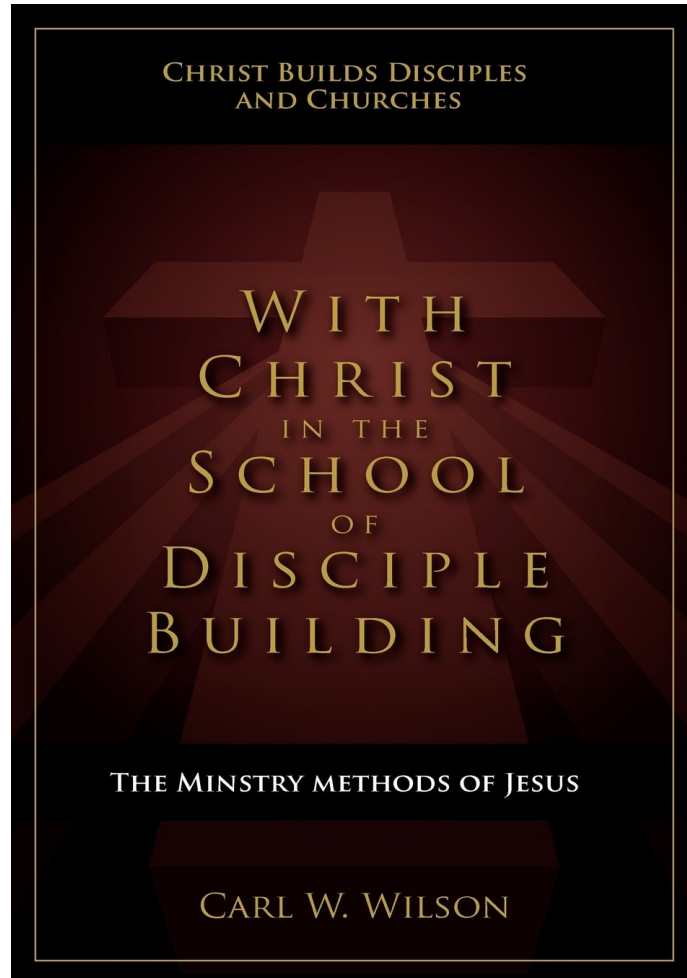
“It took our Lord three years of life-to-life investment to accomplish His desire to pour His life into the lives of twelve men. Discipleship is not a static event or condition but a process that occurs because His life is being transferred to other lives over a period of days, months, and years. Jesus invested His life in these men. When He finished, He said in effect, ‘Go and do the same thing in another’s life’”

- Dr. Allan Coppedge, Asbury Theological Seminary



**Dr. Allan Coppedge**

# Jesus' Strategy



“A leader may profess that Jesus is the head of his ministry, but when he strays from the principles of Jesus’ ministry, he’s really just taking over himself. Jesus’ methodology keeps everyone aware that He, and He alone, is the head of the church.”

- Dr. Carl W. Wilson



# A CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

PREPARATION	JESUS' PUBLIC MINISTRY							SACRIFICE
John the Baptist	<div><div>OBSCURITY</div><div>POPULARITY</div><div>OPPOSITION</div></div> <div><div>Opening Events</div><div>Early Ministries</div><div>Extended Ministries</div><div>Specialized Ministry</div><div>Concluding Ministries</div></div> <div><div>4 months</div><div>8 months</div><div>4 months</div><div>10 months</div><div>6 months</div><div>3 months</div><div>3 months</div></div> <div><div>Early Judean</div><div>Early Galilean</div><div>Middle Galilean</div><div>Later Galilean</div><div>Later Judean</div><div>Perean</div></div> <div><div>First Year</div><div>Second Year</div><div>Third Year</div></div>							<div>+</div>
John's Preaching								
John Replies to Questioners								
John's Messianic Preaching								
John's Imprisonment								
Baptism of Jesus								
Genealogy of Jesus								
Annual Passovers	<div><div>① John 2:13</div><div>② John 5:1</div><div>③ John 6:4</div><div>④ John 11:55</div></div>							

Adapted from Irving L. Jensen, *Life of Christ: A Self-Study Guide* (Chicago, IL: Moody Bible Institute, 1969), p. 26.

# The Great Commission

*“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘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).*

“Surely this is the language of a Divine Being. What mere man ever conceived of such a plan that would include the whole human race in its scope? Who, except One who possessed all power in heaven and on earth, could dare to hope for success in such a gigantic undertaking? Note how the Commission is so full of grace and love! Jesus sends His Apostles on an errand to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name, and to peacefully conquer the world to God by the word of reconciliation through His death.”

- A.B. Bruce



“You and I must continue to drive at men’s hearts till they are broken; and then we must keep on preaching Christ crucified till their hearts are bound up; and when this is accomplished, we must continue to proclaim the gospel till their whole nature is brought into subjection to the gospel of Christ.”

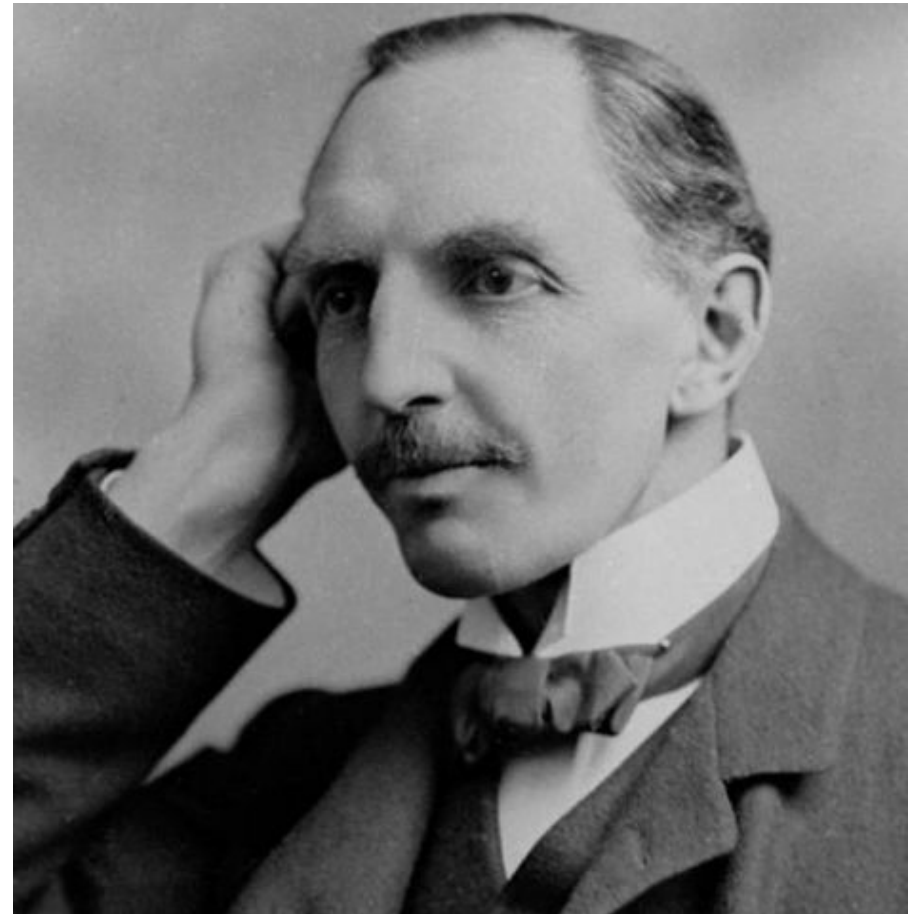
- Charles Spurgeon



# C.T. Studd: A Cambridge Cricketer

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”

*Some wish to live within the sound  
Of Church or Chapel bell,  
I want to run a Rescue Shop  
Within a yard of hell.*



**C.T. Studd**  
1860-1931

# Spurgeon: Qualifications for Sharing Christ

- “Put yourself in the position of God and consider what qualifications you would want to have in those whom you employed to evangelize the lost.”
- **Holiness of Character:** “The Eternal will never use dirty tools; the thrice-holy Jehovah will only select holy instruments for the accomplishment of His work” (I Pt. 1:14-16). “Where there is no holy living, there is no Holy Ghost” (J.C. Ryle).
- **Spiritual Life to a High Degree:** “God will not use dead tools for working living miracles.”

# Spurgeon: Qualifications for Sharing Christ

- **A Humble Spirit:** “In the matter of soul-winning, humility makes you feel that you are nothing and nobody, and that, if God gives you success in the work, you will be driven to ascribe to Him all the glory, for none of the credit of it could properly belong to you....“Why should God give blessing, and then let you run away with the glory of it? The glory of the salvation of souls belongs to Him, and to Him alone.”
- **A Living Faith:** “If ye will not believe, neither shall ye be used of God.”
- **A Thorough Earnestness:** “The Lord Jesus Christ wept over Jerusalem, and you will have to weep over sinners if they are to be saved through you. Dear brethren, do be earnest, put your whole soul into the work, or else give it up.”

# Spurgeon: Qualifications for Sharing Christ

- **Great Simplicity of Heart:** “Of course, they give God the glory after they have sucked the juice out of it, but they must have the orange themselves first.”
- **Complete Surrender of Yourself to God:** “One of the principle qualifications of a great artist’s brush must be its yielding itself up to him so that he can do what he likes with it.”
- **Knowledge:** “Truly, there must be some light in that candle which is to lighten men’s darkness, and there must be some information in that man who is to be a teacher of his fellows.”



# Spurgeon's Counsel

- “Keep your own zeal alive, let it be even vehement, burning, blazing, all-consuming.”
- “These people are very hard to influence; but I would warn you not to fight them with their own weapons....I believe you will rout unbelief by your faith rather than your reason.”
- “Judas remained unconverted even in the company of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we have some people still among us in whose ears the thirty pieces of silver chink so loudly that the sound of the gospel cannot be heard by them.”

# Be Filled With the Holy Spirit

- “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). Eugene Peterson translates the text in this way: “Don’t drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him” (*The Message*).
- The tense of the verb, *to be filled* - the present tense - indicates the necessity of **continuously** being filled with the Spirit.
- ***Keep on being filled with the Spirit*** is a clear and simple way of expressing Paul’s intent in this passage.

# When Obstacles Arise

“Whatever obstacles may be in our pathway, we must seek the aid of the Holy Spirit that they may be removed, and that thus souls may be saved, and God may be glorified.”

- Charles H. Spurgeon

# Yielded To The Spirit

“For the Spirit to have us, we must yield ourselves to Him. We must be emptied of self to be filled with all of His fullness. Our hands cannot be filled with other things if they are to know the fullness of God. Our hearts cannot be filled with worldly affection and ambition if we are to possess the Spirit without measure. Our souls must be emptied of self when we bring them to the fountains of heaven for the blessing. It seems that Paul’s motto was ‘not I but Christ’ (Gal. 2:20). Oh, that we could surrender ourselves to a like commitment! As we grow in grace, maybe at first it was all of self and none of Thee. Then, it was some of self and some of Thee. Then it was less of self and some of Thee. Then it was less of self and more of Thee. But now, God grant it, it is none of self and all of Thee” (W. A. Criswell).



# The Sovereignty of God & Evangelism

“The sovereignty of God in grace gives us our only hope of success in evangelism. The sovereignty of God in grace is the one thing that prevents evangelism from being pointless. It creates the possibility of evangelism being fruitful (were it not for the sovereign grace of God, evangelism would be the most futile and useless enterprise that the world has ever seen, and there would be no more complete waste of time under the sun than to preach the Christian gospel).”

- J.I. Packer