

40-Day Discipleship Devotional

Based on Making Disciples Jesus' Way: Wisdom We Have Missed

By Doug Greenwold
Devotional by Robbie Pruitt



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A Prayer for Christ to Be Formed in Us: “Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.” (#71., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

40-Day Discipleship Devotional, based on Making Disciples Jesus' Way: Wisdom We Have Missed, by Doug Greenwold of Preserving Bible Times.

Based on "20 Nuggets of Discipling/Mentoring Wisdom", © Doug Greenwold, 2015.

In 2015, Doug Greenwold of Preserving Bible Times wrote a short article containing twenty nuggets of wisdom for discipling or mentoring others to help us to fulfill Jesus' expectation of his followers that "of course you will make disciples along the way" (see Matthew 28:18-20). This series reflects on this discipling wisdom from Doug.

Why Discipleship Died Series Introduction

If there are so many followers of Jesus in the world, why are there so few mature disciples who are making other disciples? Are we making disciples? Has discipleship died?

In "20 Reasons Why "Discipleship" Died (RIP)", Doug Greenwold explores the reasons behind the lack of disciple making among believers today and traces the disciple deficit back to its origins of Biblical misinterpretation and misunderstanding.

It has been said that "90% of an effective therapy is rooted in a sound diagnosis". If we want to fix the issue of the disciple making deficit, we must first diagnose and understand the root cause of the issue of the lack of disciple making.

In his book "The Divine Conspiracy", Dallas Willard wrote, "Non-discipleship is the elephant in the church. It is not the much-discussed moral failures, financial abuses, or the amazing general similarity between Christians and non-Christians. These are only effects of the underlying problem." (Dallas Willard).

Spiritual immaturity in the church is a symptom of disciples not being made. There are many issues of immaturity in the church today and most of the problems and deficits can be traced back to the deficit of making disciples of Jesus.

Bruce Demarest defined the root of the non-discipleship problem this way, "Trying to be a disciple of Jesus is not the same thing as training to be His Disciple."

Making disciples is challenging, time consuming, and hard work. Disciple making requires more than trying—it requires training. We must work at disciple making. We must be intentional about making disciples and work at it over time to become effective.

As the Apostle Paul wrote to Titus his young disciple—his "partner and fellow worker", in his final greeting of his letter to him, "Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives." (Titus 3:14, NIV).

40-Day Discipleship Devotional, by Robbie Pruitt, ©December 2022.

Find more at www.robbiepruitt.com and www.preservingbibletimes.org.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

Shalom,

The Rev. Robbie Pruitt
Executive Director, Preserving Bible Times

20 Nuggets of Discipling/Mentoring Wisdom
© 2015, by Doug Greenwold.

1. Respect the uniqueness of each person (reflects the uniqueness in the Godhead). Particularize your approach to each person and situation. No one-size-fits-all formulas.
2. Make sure you really do care about your mentee's spiritual growth and development.
3. Be a genuine friend first and foremost.
4. Chemistry matters in mentoring and discipling. Square pegs don't disciple round holes. Best place to start in assessing chemistry is with his or her life's story.
5. We are seeking to transform people from rugged individualists to community people in Christ.
6. It is the depth to which Christ is relevant to our own brokenness that we are able to "touch" the heart and mind of another.
7. Probe early on the motives/attitudes of the mentoree/co-disciple, that there is a receptive spirit.
8. Nothing will speak more eloquently to your co-disciple/mentee than your own personal piety. Remember G.K. Chesterton – "All education is implication."
9. Be clear what the other's expectations are: a) negotiate time frames and differing expectations, b) define areas of focus and endpoints, and how best to address areas needing improvement.
10. Often best to start with the other's narrative – his or her journey. Don't be in a hurry. Mentoring is not a microwave experience. God's way is often a slow bake.
11. Need to be conscious about sharing too much. Be careful not to become a soul archaeologist digging around in the life of another.

12. Remember to re-establish “Grace Time” each time you meet. (See Chapter 6 “Grace Before Truth” in Making Disciples Jesus’ Way.
13. Best to always have your mentee summarize each session and close in prayer (listen carefully to what’s being revealed).
14. Misconception: You have to know it all, have done it all, and well to disciple another! It’s more to carefully listen and then share your perspective - what you know and have experienced.
15. Anyone can mentor if they have learned something from God and are willing to share it.
16. We minister out of our failures and brokenness, not our “successes.” Our own weaknesses and shortcomings soon become apparent to others.
17. Always good to periodically evaluate: a) how’s it going? b) what adjustments might be needed? and c) always seek “continuous improvement” - how to do it better.
18. Be careful that your methodologies do not take a higher priority than following Jesus.
19. Mentoring is always a Value/Price decision for both parties (See Chapter 7 in Making Disciples Jesus’ Way.” Helps to view your mentee’s responses/behavior through that lens.
20. You never disciple/mentor alone. Pray “without ceasing” to discern the leading of the Spirit.

Day 1

The Uniqueness of Making Disciples

#1: Respect the uniqueness of each person (reflects the uniqueness in the Godhead). Particularize your approach to each person and situation. No one-size-fits-all formulas.

Discipling and mentoring is as unique as each person being disciplined or mentored and is as unique as each of us who are making disciples of Jesus and mentoring others.

God created each of us uniquely in his own image. We read in Genesis that “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27, ESV).

We are each image bearers of God and we must reverence God’s image in ourselves, as disciples of Jesus, and God’s image in others as we make disciples of Jesus.

The Psalmist says, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14, ESV). Each of us are uniquely and wonderfully constructed by God.

The cultivating work of discipleship and mentoring honors God’s intended wonder of our uniqueness and continues the good work of conforming us more and more into God’s image—into Christ’s likeness.

God made us uniquely for himself and for his purpose, and for his unique work in the world. We are each God’s handiwork, created for his specific good work.

As the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians, “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

God has created each of us uniquely for his unique work of being his disciples, who are also discipling and mentoring others to become more and more like our Rabbi Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Inner Renewal Through the Word: Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.” (#70., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 2

Making Disciples Begins with Care

#2: Make sure you really do care about your mentee's spiritual growth and development.

There is widespread discontent in North American Christianity. Many of us are being asked to settle for life-support Christianity instead of thriving Christianity. We should be saying, "Are we missing out on something?" —**Jack Stackhouse**

At the root of all discipling is care for another. We must care about other people's growth and development, especially if we desire to make disciples of them.

We cannot make disciples for our caring God, who cares deeply for our growth and development, if we do not care for others and their spiritual growth and development.

The Apostle Peter wrote that you can cast all your cares and anxieties on Jesus, "because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7, ESV).

Care is at the heart of our God who desires to meet our need for spiritual growth and development.

Discipling is not about a cold information exchange, or download, devoid of care for another. Discipling involves an intimate caring relationship with the person we disciple and mentor. We must care about the person we disciple if we are to care for their spiritual growth and development.

Theodore Roosevelt said it this way, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

If we are going to make disciples, it is going to be by caring deeply for others, as Jesus cares for each of us. If we are going to make disciples, we must care deeply about the spiritual growth and development of those we care for—as an expression of our care for them.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Knowing and Loving God: "O God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (#72., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 3

Making Disciples and the Importance of Friendship

#3: Be a genuine friend first and foremost.

Friendship is foundational for making disciples. People are not our projects; they are our friends. Friends are genuine and genuinely love and sacrificially serve one another.

In John's Gospel, Jesus said this about his disciples—his friends, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:12-14, ESV).

The greatest commandment is to love God and to love others. Jesus loves deeply and calls us to love one another, as he has loved us. We are to lay our lives down for those we disciple.

Jesus calls his disciples his friends and he sacrificially laid his life down for us. Jesus also said that if we are his friends, we will do what he has commanded us to do—love sacrificially.

As disciple makers, we need to love those we disciple—our friends and lay our lives down for them in sacrificial love and service.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Mission of the Church: "Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, for ever and ever. Amen." (#118., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 4

Making Disciples and the Importance of Fit

#4: Chemistry matters in mentoring and discipling.

Have you ever really connected with someone so well, with such a genuine affinity, that your relationship with this person impacted both of your lives for the better?

In making disciples, connecting with the person you are discipling, and their connection with you, is very important for effectiveness.

Out of the multitudes, Jesus sent out seventy people to share the good news. Out of the multitudes, Jesus had twelve disciples that he poured into intimately and deeply. Out of these twelve disciples, Jesus connected more intimately with three disciples, with whom he had a great chemistry with, Peter, James, and John. Out of the three disciples that formed Jesus' inner circle, Jesus had a very close relationship of affection with his disciple John.

At the Passover Supper, John's Gospel shares the intimate chemistry that Jesus shared with his disciple John. He writes, "One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side" (John 13:23, ESV).

When the disciple making chemistry is right, there is closeness and intimacy. Jesus loved John uniquely and John was at the side of Jesus and was with him often.

If we are going to make disciples of Jesus, there needs to be a chemistry of love and intimacy with those we disciple.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Unity of All Christian People: "O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to take to heart the grave dangers we are in through our many divisions. Deliver your Church from all enmity and prejudice, and everything that hinders us from godly union. As there is one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so make us all to be of one heart and of one mind, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, that with one voice we may give you praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in everlasting glory. Amen." (#4., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 5

Making Disciples in Community

#5: We are seeking to transform people from rugged individualists to community people in Christ.

What is most important, what you need, or what the community needs?

In disciple making, we need to be about transforming individualistic and self-focused people into people who are more concerned with the community of the body of Christ.

In the Hebrew way of thinking, the community is more important than the Individual. The first century Jewish people in the time of Jesus were willing to sacrifice their own personal rights for the benefit of the larger community. The united whole is seen as greater than the individual parts.

In our twenty first century western thinking, the individual is seen as more important than the community. As westerners, we are more willing to sacrifice community harmony for the sake of our own personal interests. The single person is seen as greater, or more important, than the larger community—the whole.

Disciple making is most effective when we look beyond ourselves to the community as a whole. We are individual members of a larger body—the body of Christ—the church. The community is of greater importance than the Individual members or parts.

The Apostle Paul wrote about this in Romans when he said, “I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:3-5, ESV).

Discipling begins with thinking beyond us, with humility and wise discernment, understanding that there are others in the community that are of great value and significance and are a part of the essential functioning of the larger body, or community.

In Christ, we are individual members of the larger body of Christ. We are interdependent upon one another in order to function well at our full potential and capacity—in community.

If we desire the health of the community—the body, and if we are to make disciples, we must embrace that we are members of one another.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

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Prayers for the Church

A Prayer for the Universal Church: “O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (#1., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer for the Universal Church, by William Laud: “Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.” (#2., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer for the Unity of the Church: “Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you”: Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.” (#3., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 6

Making Disciples as Touched Disciples

#6: It is the depth to which Christ is relevant to our own brokenness that we are able to “touch” the heart and mind of another.

Have you heard the saying, “You cannot give what you do not have”? Maybe you have heard it this way, “You cannot pour from an empty bucket”?

In making disciples, we give to others, we disciple, from our own experience of Jesus meeting us, and being relevant to our own brokenness. We touch the heart and mind of another, as we share how Jesus has touched our heart and our mind.

Henri Nouwen said it this way, “We are wounded healers.”

The Apostle Paul set a relevant principle in his second letter to the Corinthians, when he wrote, “your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.” (2 Corinthians 8:14, ESV).

While Paul was speaking more of physical and financial resources, this principle applies to our spiritual resources as well, as we share what we have with others. Out of our abundance, we share with those who have need.

As Jesus spoke in Luke’s Gospel, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48, ESV).

We make disciples out of the flow, and out of the overflow, of what Jesus and others have poured into us as we have been disciplined.

We have been given so much by God and those who have nurtured us and given to us. And we need to give from that which we have been given. We need to fill others from the abundance of what we have been filled with.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Mission of the Church I: “O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#16., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 7

The Importance of Motivation in Making Disciples

#7: Probe early on the motives/attitudes of the mentoree/co-disciple, that there is a receptive spirit.

Have you ever struggled to learn and grow in an area of your life where you were low on motivation, or where you had a bad attitude? Have you ever experienced the joy of learning when you were adequately motivated and had an attitude of excitement and anticipation?

There is a saying among educators that goes like this, “Never work harder than your students.” This expression captures the essential need for the student to want to learn—to be properly motivated and to have a good attitude. This expression captures the responsibility on the part of the learner. The student has to want to learn.

Jesus had some harsh words for those who would not receive his word and a stern warning for those who might waste what is of value on those who would reject his word. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus said, “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.” (Matthew 7:6, ESV).

Our chosen students should be those who desire to learn and to grow and who will hear God’s word, receive God’s word, and live out God’s word in their lives. Our time is valuable and the need for people to make disciples is great. Our time is best spent on willing and eager students who will value our discipling.

The Apostle Peter captures how discipling is supposed to function when it goes well. He writes, “You who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” (1 Peter 5:5, ESV).

Teachability, humility, submissiveness, and receptivity are all essential attributes of a disciple of Jesus. These characteristics are all essential postures in being disciples, and in making disciples of Jesus.

A disciple must be motivated to hear the word of God and must have a willing and receptive attitude to receive the word of God. As Paul wrote to the Romans, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17, ESV).

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Mission of the Church II: “O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#17., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer...

Jesus, I really do want to be an authentic disciple of Yours,

But it seems I often just do not have enough desire within me to want to live like one.

Please put within me the desire to want to consistently seek You, and to honor You in all that I do and think.

Search my heart O Lord, implant Your holy desires and fan them into flames with Your Spirit,

Creating a new heart within me.

Bathe me and immerse me in the deep wells of Your Word;

Refresh and renew me in their power.

And lead me in the ways that are everlasting starting right now.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus' Way, p. 14, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Day 8

Your Life Speaks in Making Disciples

#8: Nothing will speak more eloquently to your co-disciple/mentee than your own personal piety.

Have you ever learned from the example of someone else? Have others modeled the Christian life for you? Have you modeled the Christian life and reflected Jesus to others?

We can all grow and learn through emulating those around us who are more mature. We can also teach volumes by how we live out our faith in the world and reflect Jesus to others.

It has been said that the Christian faith is more often caught than taught. People are more likely to learn from our example than they are to remember a lesson that we merely download in an information dump.

Theologian G.K. Chesterton said it this way, “All education is implication.” In the Christian faith, we are all implicated. We are active in teaching and in learning and in modeling.

Jesus understood the importance of living out the faith, and modeling through living as an example. In John’s Gospel Jesus said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another AS I have loved you.” (John 15: 12, ESV).

Paul also understood the value and importance of emulation. He wrote to the church in Corinth saying, “Be imitators of me, AS I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1, ESV).

Our actions really do speak louder than our words do. It matters how we live our lives.

In disciple making, nothing will speak more eloquently to your co-disciple or mentee than your own personal relationship with Jesus, and your own life lived out in tangible ways for him.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for All Missionaries: “O God, you desire that all people be saved and come to knowledge of the truth: Prosper all those who live, preach, and teach the Gospel at home and in distant lands, especially those seeking to model discipleship with their lives; protect them in all perils, support them in their loneliness, sustain them in the hour of trial; give them your abundant grace to bear faithful witness; and endue them with burning zeal and love, that they may turn many to righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#19., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 9

Making Disciples and Considering the Cost

#9: Be clear what the other's expectations are: a) negotiate time frames and differing expectations, b) define areas of focus and endpoints, and how best to address areas needing improvement.

What is your process for considering the cost of investing your time and resources when making a decision?

Anytime we say "yes" to something there is a price we pay in both time and resources. A "yes" to one thing is a "no" to something else.

When making disciples, there is a cost for both the disciple maker and the one being disciplined.

Jesus said that a wise person will consider the cost of following him. In Luke's Gospel account, Jesus said, "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" (Luke 14:28, ESV).

In making disciples, it is important to discuss and to agree upon the investment being made, in both time and resources, and the desired goals and outcomes with your co-disciple.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer to Please God Rather Than Men, by Thomas à Kempis: "Our God, in whom we trust: Strengthen us not to regard overmuch who is for us or who is against us, but to see to it that we be with you in everything we do. Amen." (#78., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer for Desiring God, by Francis Xavier: "O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you for ever. Amen." (#74., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 10

Making Disciples by Moving Slowly Through the Crowd

#10: Often best to start with the other's narrative – his or her journey. Don't be in a hurry. Mentoring is not a microwave experience. God's way is often a slow bake.

In making disciples of Jesus, it is important to see the people to whom God has called us, to understand their story, to enter into their life, and to see their deepest need.

Leadership expert John Maxwell calls this process "Walking slowly through the crowd."

Caring for people, seeking to meet people in their time of need, and having compassion on them, to teach them and to help them meet their need, takes time and patience. We cannot be in a hurry.

The Gospel of Mark tells us, "Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things." (Mark 6:34, ESV).

Jesus saw the crowd and he had compassion on them. This took patience and time. Jesus moved slowly through the crowd. Jesus took the time to see them and their need, and he made the time to teach them many things.

Jesus also understood the need to rest, to pull away from the crowds, and to focus more intently on his disciples closest to him.

Matthew tells us in his Gospel account that, "Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him." (Matthew 5:1, ESV).

Jesus spent time with his disciples away from the masses. He invested himself in self-care and he invested himself intimately and uniquely with his inner circle.

Jesus spent quality time with his disciples. He was not in a hurry with them. He had a restful pace with them. He was with them in the ordinary rhythms of life, of work, and of rest.

In making disciples, there must be this same patient pace of being with the people we are discipling. We must see them. We must move slowly and intentionally through the crowd. We must consider the people we are with, entering empathetically, compassionately, and mercifully into their life and narrative—all for the sake of making disciples of Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for a Spirit of Evangelism: “Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#20., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, thank You for taking the initiative to reveal Yourself to me.

Lord, I do want to know You more.

Please reveal more of Yourself to me through Your Word.

Put within me a passion for Your word and a diligence to study it.

Empower me so that I can honor You in both what I say and do.

Remake me so I will think more about You and less about me.

Lord, may your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,

And may that be true in my life more and more each day.

Amen.

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Day 11

Making Disciples and Vulnerability

#11: In disciple making, we need to be conscious about sharing too much. Be careful not to become a soul archaeologist digging around in the life of another.

Have you ever spoken with an over sharer, someone who shares too much and too soon in the relationship? Have you ever been the one to share too much?

There is a tension in being vulnerable and sharing and in sharing too much too soon.

Vulnerability and sharing is important in making disciples. We must be vulnerable, and we must receive some level of vulnerability from those we disciple. This vulnerability takes time and requires wisdom and discernment.

Consider Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well in John chapter four. Jesus made himself available to this woman and spoke candidly and whimsically with her. Jesus was tender and asked questions. Jesus did not judge but spoke truth in love and grace.

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.'" (John 4:16-19, ESV).

Jesus did not pry and ask the Samaritan woman for any unnecessary details about her situation, though as God, he knew the details. Jesus asked questions and made a request and allowed this woman the dignity of revealing her situation to him. When she spoke truth and gave an opening, Jesus affirmed what she said and what he knew. The conversation shifted without further details, or any questioning that would shame the woman.

In disciple making, we need to be conscious about sharing too much—or asking too much from those we disciple. We need to be careful not to become a "soul archaeologist" and dig around too much in the life of another. We must take time and care and live in the tension of vulnerability in sharing and over sharing.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication, by William Temple: "Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen." (#73., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

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Day 12

Making Disciples in Grace and Truth

#12: Remember to re-establish “Grace Time” each time you meet. (See Chapter 6 “Grace Before Truth” in Making Disciples Jesus’ Way.)

*The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of **grace and truth**. —John 1:14 (added)*

Which is more important in disciple making, grace or truth? Have you ever been around someone who is all grace and no truth? Have you ever experienced someone who was all truth and no grace?

In disciple making, there has to be a balance of both grace and truth. Grace and truth go hand in hand. One is most effective when held in correspondence to the other.

We see Grace and truth in the person of Jesus as described by the Apostle John in the gospel of John here, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14, ESV).

Jesus was filled with grace and truth and functioned in his life and in his discipling relationships with both grace and truth.

John goes on to say, “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17, ESV).

If Jesus was filled with grace and truth and related in grace and truth, then our disciple making should be marked by grace and truth.

Grace and truth should function in tandem in our disciple making. If we are all grace, our disciple making will be shallow and will not be transformative. If we are all truth in our disciple making, we will be cold and callous, and will not touch the heart of the person with the life changing love of God.

As Jesus’ very nature exhibits the perfect balance of grace and truth, our disciple making should demonstrate a balance of grace and truth—as Jesus himself is full of grace and truth.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Grace to Seek God in Every Way, by Benedict of Nursia: “Gracious and holy Father, please give me intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you, and perseverance to look for you. Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence, a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting. Amen.” (#90., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your Grace, and thank You for Your Truth.

And Lord, thank You that You always deal with me with Grace before Truth.

Lord, help me to see myself as I truly am.

Reveal to me where I need to be rebalanced in how I function in relationships.

Provide those people in my life who can encourage me and help me to change,

And grant me the courage to make those changes.

Lead me in Your Spirit in those ways so that I can ever increasingly be the aroma of Christ in the relationships you have entrusted to me.

And Lord, thank You so much that Your mercies are indeed fresh and new each day.

Only You know how much I need that in my life.

Amen.

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Day 13

Prayer and Listening in Making Disciples

#13: Best to always have your mentee summarize each session and close in prayer (listen carefully to what's being revealed).

Have you ever learned how someone is doing or feeling, or what they think or believe, by listening to how they pray?

We can learn a lot of valuable information about a person by listening to how they pray.

Praying is essential and is revealing in making disciples of Jesus.

In Luke's gospel account, Jesus tells a parable about a tax collector and a Pharisee praying in the temple. Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt. (Luke 18:9, ESV).

Jesus said, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'" (Luke 18:10-13, ESV).

In this parable, Jesus observed these two men pray and made some judgements based on their prayers. Jesus modeled listening and observation and declared to those he was teaching what he had learned about the heart of these men from their prayers at the temple.

Jesus said, I tell you, this [this tax collector] went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14, ESV).

As Jesus understood the heart of this Pharisee and this tax collector, we can understand the heart of the people we disciple by listening to their prayers.

In making disciples, it is best to always have your disciple or mentee summarize each session and close in prayer.

In listening carefully, we can clearly hear what is being revealed from their heart, and we can understand where they are in their relationship with Jesus and in their growth and development as disciples of Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

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A Prayer for Submission to God's Will, by Joseph Mercier: "O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen." (#91., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, I do want to have a deep desire for You, Your Will and Your Ways.

Yet, I confess I often find little or no desire to want to do so.

In the power of Your Holy Spirit, remind me to pray for that desire when I find it missing;

To pray for a desire to want to submit to You as a loving act of devotion and worship,

And to have a passion to want to emulate You in all that I think, feel, and do.

Lord, work in your Sovereign ways to empower me to want to be Your disciple.

Tear down all my bastions of self-centeredness and self-sufficiency.

Make me into Your person, Your disciple, Your ambassador, and the leaven in Your loaf - a person who loves You and willingly shares that love with others.

And free me from any sense of obligatory obedience, for Your glory and Your praise.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus' Way, p. 35, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Day 14

Making Disciples by Sharing What We Know

#14: Misconception: You have to know it all, have done it all, and well, to disciple another! It's more to carefully listen and then share your perspective - what you know and have experienced.

Maybe you have heard these expressions, "We teach what we know", or "You cannot teach what you do not know"?

We give from what we have. We teach out of our abundance and out of our overflow.

In Luke's gospel account, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said it this way, "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45, ESV).

Jesus said these words after telling his disciples "Each tree will be known by its own fruit." We all have "fruit" to offer. We all have something good to give. We share from our heart and experience. We give—we overflow from the abundance of our heart. The question is, "What kind of fruit will we offer to another?"

There is a misconception that we must know it all, or that we have to have done it all—and well, to disciple another person. This is simply not true. We know and we give what we know. We experience and we give what we have experienced. This knowledge and experience is what we have, and is what we have to give.

In disciple making, it is more beneficial to listen carefully, and then to share our perspective from what we know and have experienced firsthand. To share our life with another.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Participation in the Peace of God, In the Tradition of Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is error, truth; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen." (#87., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 15

Making Disciples by the Flow of Information

#15: Anyone can mentor if they have learned something from God and are willing to share it.

As disciples of Jesus who are making disciples, are we more like a flowing river, or are we more like a stagnant reservoir?

Making disciples is being more like a river than it is being like a reservoir. A reservoir holds and stores water, while a river is a conduit to allow the water to flow freely from one place to another. Disciple making is more like a river.

As disciples of Jesus, we are conduits for information to flow through us to another person who is also willing to allow information and teaching to flow through them to another person—like a mighty flowing river of life.

The Apostle Paul encouraged his disciple—his mentee, Timothy, with these words, “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 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.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV).

Paul wanted Timothy to allow what he had given him to flow through him to other faithful people who would be willing to do the same. Paul wanted Timothy to be willing to give what he had been given—to be a flowing river.

Any person can be a disciple maker or mentor if they have learned something from God and are willing to allow that information to flow on to others. We are called to share what we have learned, not storing it up like a reservoir, but allowing what God has given us to flow on to others like a river of life-giving water.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Those Who Serve Others: “O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others, especially those who teach and make disciples through the flow of information; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.” (#45., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 16**Making Disciples Out of Our Weakness**

#16: We minister out of our failures and brokenness, not our “successes.” Our own weaknesses and shortcomings soon become apparent to others.

Have you ever been able to help someone because of your own experience of failure, or out of your own experience of brokenness?

Oftentimes we can be most helpful to others and minister to them most effectively through our own failures, weaknesses, and brokenness.

We are earthen vessels. We are fragile and broken. Out of our failures, out of our weaknesses, and out of our brokenness, we can better serve and help others, and we can better make disciples of Jesus.

Henri Nouwen said that we are wounded healers. In his book “The Wounded Healer”, Nouwen wrote, “The great illusion of leadership is to think that man can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there.” (Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer*).

God uses our experiences, both good and adverse for his glory and for his purposes. Nothing is wasted in God’s economy, not even our failures, our weaknesses, or our brokenness. God uses everything about us.

God explained it to the Apostle Paul this way, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul responded by saying, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, ESV).

As “wounded healers”, we need to make disciples of Jesus and to minister out of our failures, our weaknesses, and our brokenness, not only out of our “successes”, recognizing that our own weaknesses and shortcomings will soon become apparent to others anyway, and God will use them.

God’s grace is sufficient for us, and God’s power is, indeed, made perfect in our weakness.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer in Times of Suffering or Weakness: “Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. Amen.” (#95., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer For Mercy: “Almighty God, you have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; grant that we, who for our evil deeds deserve to be punished, by the might of your grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (#79., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, I do want to follow You, I do want to be Your disciple.

Yet I find so much more judgment in me than I do mercy and compassion.

Keep me “poor” in my perspective so that I will never lose the joy of having been rescued.

Remind me daily of Your gracious and merciful love to me so I can be intentional in bringing that grace and mercy into the lives of others.

Remove the cataracts and blind spots from my eyes so that I can see more of what I have been missing in your Kingdom.

Grant me the courage and strength to always honor You,

And empower me to stay the course of growing in You.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus’ Way, p. 44, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Day 17

Making Disciples and Evaluation and Improvement

#17: Always good to periodically evaluate: a) how's it going? b) what adjustments might be needed? and c) always seek "continuous improvement" - how to do it better.

Evaluation is important in making disciples of Jesus. Asking the right questions will help us to improve and to be better disciple makers.

Here are three helpful questions in evaluating how you are doing in making disciples: 1. How is it going? 2. What adjustments do I need to make? And 3. How can I do it better?

The twelve disciples asked Jesus questions about how they could do better. On one occasion when they could not deliver a boy from an unclean spirit, in Mark chapter nine, they asked Jesus why they could not do it. They sought answers and understanding. They sought growth and improvement.

Mark's gospel tells us, "When Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' And Jesus said to them, 'This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.'" (Mark 9:28-29, ESV).

Like the disciples who sought understanding and improvement, it is always good for us to periodically evaluate: How is it going? What adjustments might be needed? And always to seek "continuous improvement"—how to do it better—in making disciples of Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Daily Growth, by Richard of Chichester: "Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me, and all the benefits thou hast given me. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother: Grant that I may see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen." (#88., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 18**Making Disciples by Following Jesus**

#18: Be careful that your methodologies do not take a higher priority than following Jesus.

Have you ever heard the axiom, “What you win someone with, you win them to”?

Maybe you have heard this one, “The means do not justify the end”?

Our content and purpose of knowing Jesus, making Jesus known, and making disciples of Jesus, must outweigh our techniques or methodologies.

The Apostle Paul said it this way to the church in Corinth, “When I came to you, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2, ESV).

The Apostle Paul put Jesus first and made knowing Jesus primary for the church in Corinth. Paul highlighted Jesus, not his ability to speak, or teach, or to wax eloquent with special wisdom or communication.

Like Paul, if we are to make disciples of Jesus, we need to be careful that our methodologies do not take a higher priority than following Jesus ourselves and helping others to follow Jesus along with us.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Seeking God, by Anselm of Canterbury: “Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen.” (#89., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer for Grace to Seek God in Every Way, by Benedict of Nursia: “Gracious and holy Father, please give me intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you, and perseverance to look for you. Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence, a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting. Amen.” (#90., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 19

The Value of Being a Disciple and the Cost

#19: Mentoring is always a Value/Price decision for both parties (See Chapter 7 in Making Disciples Jesus' Way). It helps to view your mentee's responses/behavior through that lens.

What is the cost associated with being a disciple? What is the cost associated with making disciples?

There is always a cost when we invest our lives in something greater than ourselves.

Disciple making has a cost-benefit.

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25, ESV).

Jesus calls his disciples to self-denial, to carry their burden, and to follow him. This is a great cost—to lose one's life. Who would pay such a high price? Unless, of course, it was worth it.

Jesus promised his disciples if they paid this high price and gave up their lives, they would save their lives—they would find life itself.

Disciple making is always a value/price decision—a cost-benefit, for everyone invested in the process—for the disciple maker and for the disciple.

It helps to view your disciple making relationships, the responses, and behaviors of your disciple, through this lens of cost-benefit or value/price. Our goal is to communicate both the high cost and the eternal benefit of being a disciple of Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Covenant Prayer, by John Wesley: "I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen." (#93., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 20

Never Go About Making Disciples Alone

#20: You never disciple/mentor alone. Pray “without ceasing” to discern the leading of the Spirit.

An individualistic Christianity leads inevitably to an individualistic god. Those who have been suckled at the breast of American culture will not easily be weaned from the milk of individualism. —Donald McCullough

Have you heard the expression, “There is safety in numbers”? Maybe you have heard the expression, “Two are better than one”, or “Never go at it alone”?

What do these expressions have in common? They express the truism that it is not good to go about life on your own.

It is not good to be alone. This is also true in making disciples. It is not good to make disciples alone. We need the help of God and other people when making disciples.

Jesus’s model for making disciples was sending his disciples out two by two. We see this teamwork in Mark’s gospel when “Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.” (Mark 6:7, ESV).

We also see Jesus sending his disciples out to towns and villages before him in groups of two when he sent out the seventy-two in Luke’s gospel account. Luke tells us, “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.” (Luke 10:1, ESV).

Jesus was never alone. Jesus sent his disciples out, and the seventy-two disciples out, together—two by two, to make disciples.

Jesus chose the seventy-two to go out and to make a broad impact in making disciples. Jesus also chose twelve close disciples for himself. Jesus chose three of these disciples to be closest to him and to travel and to minister more intimately with him. Jesus also chose one disciple to pour himself into more closely, and to commission more uniquely.

If Jesus was never alone in making disciples, we should also never make disciples on our own. Jesus ministered out of his intimacy with God the Father, and through the power and presence of God’s Holy Spirit. Jesus also made disciples in the presence and partnership with other disciples. If this is how Jesus made disciples, then we should emulate this as well.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Human Family: “O God, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#42., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer for the Communion of Saints: “O eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: Shed forth upon your whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of your light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served you here and are now at rest, may enter with them into the fullness of your unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#113., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being intentional in everything You do.

Thank You for being purposeful in my life.

Remake the ways I see and understand things so I can see them as You see them.

Remake the ways I respond and act to reflect more and more Your heart and Your ways.

Rekindle within me the joy of being forgiven by Your loving Sacrifice.

Foster a compassionate spirit within me for the outcasts of this world.

Help me to always see myself as a former port tax collector who has been redeemed so that my joy in You may always be full to overflowing.

Make me into an engaging extremist for You.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus’ Way, p. 56, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

20 Reasons Why “Discipleship” Died (RIP). © 2015, by Doug Greenwold.

(90% of an effective therapy is rooted in a sound diagnosis)

Non-discipleship is the elephant in the church. – Dallas Willard

Trying to be a disciple of Jesus is not the same thing as training to be His Disciple.

– Bruce Demarest

1. Unlike Solomon, the church in America cut the “make disciples” (MD) baby in half, creating two new (non-biblical) words - evangelism and discipleship. This separation has had adverse consequences. It allowed the church to prioritize “saving” over discipling. We never did get around to doing much discipling. That takes too much effort; plus, it can be messy and frustrating. But at least we saved them!

2. We confused being a convert/believer with being a disciple of Jesus.

3. We assumed that people would know how to disciple others – they don’t. How can you pass along something you have not experienced?

4. Faith became more a creed to assent to than a lifestyle verb to be lived out. Then life got separated into two spheres – sacred and secular – which gave rise to compartmentalized Christianity.

5. We failed to challenge people to take responsibility for their own discipling, and they didn’t.

6. We don’t know what a First Century disciple of Jesus looks like, e.g., attributes. So how then would we know what we are trying to reproduce or become?

7. We failed to reproduce ourselves. Recent data reveals that two out of three children raised in a Christian home are lost to the faith by age 30. Why is it that the life we are “living” isn’t something they care to emulate?

8. We assumed that MD would automatically happen if people hung around the church long enough. It didn’t. As a result, we were not intentional about MD and thus failed to create a church climate that was conducive to discipling.

9. We treated MD as a periodic program that deserves an occasional emphasis rather than a purposeful, life-long process that is always Job #1, i.e., “Discipling is everything and everything is discipling.”

10. We took our eye off the MD ball and were seduced into offering “therapeutic consumerism” events where we felt people are itching, e.g., parenting skills, financial skills, divorce recovery, etc., etc. No time left for in-depth (transforming) Bible study and discipling.

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11. We emphasized “knowing” over “doing” and “being.” And valued orthodoxy (right thinking) over orthopraxy (right doing). Then we falsely equated the acquisition of knowledge with spiritual maturity.
12. We failed to grasp the genius of Jesus’ experiential “Do and Teach” (Acts 1:1) pedagogy for MD, substituting in its place a Westernized classroom, cognitive approach of “Teach and Maybe Do.”
13. The old mentoring model is not working. Most of the gray hairs still don’t see themselves as quite ready (yet) to disciple others. They always seem to need to read a few more spiritual books!
14. We have a 21st-Century, Westernized, industrialized, urban understanding of Jesus, which is not the Near Eastern, village, agrarian, Jewish Jesus of the Gospels who show us how (contextually) to MD.
15. MD takes place in community with transparency and intimacy. Too many believers are functional Lone Rangers in the church, strangers in the worship crowd. We need to rediscover the biblical paradigm for our life together.
16. We aimed at too small/narrow a target. We failed to disciple the whole person. Peter Scazzero postulates there is no spiritual maturity without corresponding relational and emotional maturity. Why do we fill people up with biblical facts while still letting them continue as emotionally maladjusted, relational misfits in our midst?
17. We fostered a church model where clerics have taken the place of the “priesthood of ALL believers.” We have seminaries (mostly) training church managers, not shepherds of the flock who model discipling.
18. The narcissism of the culture has spilled over into the church resulting in people who think being a disciple of Jesus is a personal journey in self-development, self-actualization, and self-fulfillment. Wrong! Missing are obedience, submission, emulation of Jesus, communion with God and the Body, and yes, joy unspeakable.
19. We have been dispensing spiritual/biblical facts without frameworks that tie everything together. Ever tried to work a puzzle without seeing the box top? That’s why we created a biblical framework for MD – it’s a missing piece that makes a huge difference.
20. It isn’t the “Great Commission.” That phrase is not in the text. Apple trees don’t have to be exhorted to make apples. That’s just what apple trees do! In the Greek, Matt. 28:19 reads much more as the “Great Given” - of course disciples will be making disciples (MD). Like apple trees, that’s what disciples (super) naturally do!

Day 21

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #1

#1. Unlike Solomon, the church in America cut the “make disciples” baby in half, creating two new (non-biblical) words - evangelism and discipleship. This separation has had adverse consequences. It allowed the church to prioritize “saving” over discipling. We never did get around to doing much discipling. That takes too much effort; plus, it can be messy and frustrating. But at least we saved them!

What is the difference between making disciples and evangelism and discipleship? And where do we get the word evangelism and discipleship when these words are not used explicitly in the Bible?

In “20 Reasons Why ‘Discipleship’ Died”, Doug Greenwold makes the case that the church has fragmented the command to “make disciples”. The church has compartmentalized “make disciples” into evangelism and discipleship. Where the church’s priority is making converts over making disciples.

Doug Greenwold asserts, “Unlike Solomon, the church in America cut the ‘make disciples’ baby in half, creating two new (non-biblical) words - evangelism and discipleship.”

Doug goes on to explain that this fragmentation of disciple making has had adverse consequences for the church and for Christianity. The holistic and integrated concept of making disciples has been substituted for less integrated, and less effective, either/or propositions of formation.

He goes on to say, “This separation has had adverse consequences. It allowed the church to prioritize ‘saving’ over discipling. We never did get around to doing much discipling. That takes too much effort; plus, it can be messy and frustrating. But at least we ‘saved them!’”

The church has wrongly assumed that conversion to Christianity is more important than making disciples of Jesus. When in fact, we should be making disciples of Jesus who convert to Christianity, rather than making converts who are never disciples of Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Mission of the Church: “Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, for ever and ever. Amen.” (#118., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

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Day 22

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #2

#2. We confused being a convert/believer with being a disciple of Jesus.

Evangelicalism, particularly American evangelicalism, is failing the modern church. Evangelicals have done a superb job of evangelizing people, of bringing them to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, but they are failing to provide believers with approaches to living that keep them going and growing in spiritual relationship with Him. —Alister McGrath

What is the difference between being a convert, or believer in Jesus, and being a disciple of Jesus?

In “20 Reasons Why ‘Discipleship’ Died”, Doug Greenwold asserts that the church has “confused being a convert/believer with being a disciple of Jesus.” There is a difference between believing in Jesus and being a disciple of Jesus.

The Book of James says, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!” (James 2:19, ESV).

Anyone can believe in Jesus. Even the demons believe, but they are not disciples of Jesus. There is a difference between belief in Jesus and following Jesus and being his disciple.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21, ESV).

Jesus is adamant that he is less concerned about what we say we believe and more concerned that we know him, that he knows us, and that we live out our belief in our actions—in how we obey and do God’s will.

Jesus is not concerned with lip service and people claiming to be believers. Jesus is more concerned with people being actual followers of him—students of Jesus—disciples of Jesus.

Jesus warned the religious leaders against making converts instead for true disciples saying, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.” (Matthew 23:15, NIV).

We can convert people to the wrong thing. We can persuade people to believe the wrong thing and to believe the wrong way. We can make converts and jeopardize their eternity by not making them true disciples of Jesus.

There is a difference between making converts and making disciples. There is a difference between being a believer and being a disciple. Jesus has commanded us to make disciples.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Unrepentant: “Merciful God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn to you and live; and through your only Son you have revealed yourself as the God who pardons iniquity. Have mercy on the unrepentant and those who do not believe, especially those who do not yet believe. Awaken in them, by your Word and Holy Spirit, a deep sense of their sinfulness and peril. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word. Grant them to know and feel that there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which they must be saved, but only the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so bring them home and number them among your children, that they may be yours for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.” (#64., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 23

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #3

#3. We assumed that people would know how to disciple others – they don't. How can you pass along something you have not experienced?

Do you know how to be a disciple? Do you know how to make disciples?

We cannot give what we do not have. We cannot teach what we do not know. We cannot make disciples of Jesus unless we know how to be a disciple of Jesus.

In "20 Reasons Why 'Discipleship' Died", Doug Greenwold expressed the deficit of practical knowledge concerning being disciples of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus.

Doug asserted, "We assumed that people would know how to disciple others – they don't. How can you pass along something you have not experienced?"

Paul expressed this concept of learning and teaching to the church in Rome when he said, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15, ESV).

We would not be disciples of Jesus if someone did not teach us about Jesus. We also cannot expect anyone else to understand the good news of Jesus if no one has shared the good news with them.

We cannot expect that we will make a disciple of Jesus if we do not know the Jesus we proclaim. We cannot expect others to make disciples if they are not disciples themselves.

If we are to be disciples of Jesus, who make disciples of Jesus, we have to overcome the deficit of practical knowledge; recognizing, "We cannot pass along something that we ourselves have not experienced."

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Quiet Confidence: "O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (#82., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 24

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #4

#4. Faith became more a creed to assent to than a lifestyle verb to be lived out. Then life got separated into two spheres – sacred and secular – which gave rise to compartmentalized Christianity.

What is the difference between knowing something and living something?

We can know a lot about Jesus and his word and not know Jesus. We can know a lot about Jesus and his word and not live as his followers or do what he has taught us to do.

A true disciple is not identified primarily by what they know or by what they believe, but by how they live and by what they do.

In “20 Reasons Why ‘Discipleship’ Died”, Doug Greenwold asserts that disciple making died because, “Faith became more a creed to assent to than a lifestyle verb to be lived out. Then life got separated into two spheres – sacred and secular – which gave rise to compartmentalized Christianity.”

Teaching, doctrine, and Creeds are important, but if they do not effect how we live our lives, they are empty words on a page, or words that we have committed to memory, but they do not transform our lives and how we live.

This is what Jesus warned about the religious leaders of his day, the scribes and the Pharisees, when he said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.” (Matthew 23:1-4, ESV).

Jesus was indignant towards the religious leaders who did not live out what they knew and did not live what they claimed to believe.

Jesus told the crowds to listen to the instructions of the scribes and Pharisees but warned the people not to emulate what they did, or how they lived, because they did not practice what they preached.

If we are going to be disciples of Jesus, our faith must be more than a creed to assent to. If we are to be disciples of Jesus, we must live out our faith in every sacred area of our life.

As followers of Jesus—as his disciples, we are called to integrate what we know and believe with how we live our life. We cannot separate our life into two spheres of the sacred and secular. We cannot live a disintegrated life of compartmentalized Christianity.

We must practice what we preach. We must live out what we know and believe as true disciples of Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Satisfaction in Christ, by Julian of Norwich: “O God, of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are enough for me. I can ask for nothing less that is completely to your honor, and if I do ask anything less, I shall always be in want. Only in you I have all. Amen.” (#92., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, in Your grace, reveal more of Yourself to me.

Deepen my understanding of what it means to be loved by You.

In the power of your Spirit, help me to fathom more of the incredible price You paid.

Lord, You are the pearl of great price, the immeasurable treasure.

Grant me the desire and the courage to sell all that I have so I can love only You.

Thank You for dying for me, and for the great value You place on each of Your children.

Lord, grant me the required strength and courage from Your resources to starve parts of my life that still need to be put to death.

Empower me with the discipline and the persistence I need to continue to think on Your ways.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus' Way, p. 95, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Day 25

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #5

#5. We failed to challenge people to take responsibility for their own discipling, and they didn't.

It takes great strength and courage to move out of our comfort zones and claim new ground spiritually. And in fact, our greatest potential for growth lies in our areas of weakness. —Bruce Demarest

What role do you play in being a devoted disciple of Jesus? What are the responsibilities of being a disciple and discipling others?

One of the reasons the church has failed to make disciples of Jesus is a failure of taking personal responsibility.

In “20 Reasons Why ‘Discipleship’ Died”, Doug Greenwold says, “We failed to challenge people to take responsibility for their own discipling, and they didn't.”

There is an axiom that says, “You get what you measure.” The church has failed to measure disciple making as the metrics for success.

We have failed to take responsibility for making disciples, because we have not adequately valued disciple making.

The Apostle Paul measured disciple making as what constitutes success. Paul took responsibility and prioritized disciple making and he invested in disciple making with his time and his resources.

In his letter to the church in Colossae, Paul writes, “[Jesus] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” (Colossians 1:28-29, ESV).

Paul took the time to challenge people to take responsibility for their own discipling. He proclaimed Jesus, he exhorted others, he taught everyone with wisdom, and he sought to present everyone as mature in Christ—as true disciples of Jesus.

Like Paul, we should work towards this good end of making mature disciples as we work with all the power and might that God gives to us.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for a Virtuous Heart, by Thomas Aquinas: “Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag down; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose can tempt aside. Bestow upon me understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that finally may embrace you. Amen.” (#94., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Jesus, am I fooling myself?

Am I stuck in patterns and ways of thinking and doing things that are barriers to knowing and experiencing You more?

Lord, would You show me the error of my way?.

In Your Spirit, will You give me the courage and strength to change those paradigms that are constraining me, as well as the persistence to see these changes through?

Lord, I do want to be evermore Your person, reflecting Your will and ways in my life to those around me.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus’ Way, p. 112, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Day 26**Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #6**

#6. We don't know what a First Century disciple of Jesus looks like, e.g., attributes. So how then would we know what we are trying to reproduce or become?

Have you heard that the first step in solving a problem is admitting that you have a problem?

We cannot solve a problem that we do not have identified. We must first identify the problem so that we can then identify an effective solution.

If we are going to make disciples, we must first be able to identify what a disciple looks like. What is it that we are trying to reproduce or to become?

Jesus defined a disciple as looking like their master, or teacher. A disciple is a student or learner. As disciples of Jesus, we learn from Jesus, and we look like Jesus.

As Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40, ESV).

A First Century disciple of Jesus looks like Jesus. If we are to be a Twenty First Century disciple of Jesus, we are to look like Jesus.

We must study Jesus' teachings—what he said and what he taught, and we must study Jesus' actions—what he did and how he lived his life.

When we know Jesus and his attributes, then we will know what we are trying to become and to reproduce in ourselves and in others.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Christ to be Formed in Us: "Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen." (#71., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 27**Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #7**

#7. We failed to reproduce ourselves. Recent data reveals that two out of three children raised in a Christian home are lost to the faith by age 30. Why is it that the life we are “living” isn’t something they care to emulate?

Are we teaching the next generation to know and to follow Jesus? Will the next generation share our faith in Jesus?

There is an old saying, “The apple does not fall far from the tree.” Another saying goes like this, “Like father, like son.”

It is usually true that children are often a reflection of their parents and their family. Our children take on our values and our beliefs.

One Proverb says, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, ESV).

We are to teach and to model our faith in Jesus for the next generation.

The next generation will only share our faith in Jesus if we share our faith in Jesus with them.

The next generation will only share our faith in Jesus if we live out our faith in our lives in compelling ways.

May our lives teach our faith in Jesus to the next generation in everything we say and do as we live our lives well to the glory of God, and may we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Schools, Colleges, and Universities: “Almighty God, by your gift alone we come to wisdom and true understanding: Look with favor, we pray, on our universities, colleges, and schools, and especially all those who shape minds and make disciples, that knowledge may be increased among us, and wholesome learning flourish and abound. Bless those who teach and those who learn; and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#49., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 28

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #8

#8. We assumed that making disciples would automatically happen if people hung around the church long enough. It didn't. As a result, we were not intentional about making disciples and thus failed to create a church climate that was conducive to discipling.

What is the relationship between intentionality and disciple making?

Making disciples does not just happen automatically. Church attendance alone will not make disciples.

There is a saying that goes like this, "Just because you are in a garage, does not make you a car."

Just because someone goes to church, does not mean they are a follower of Jesus. Just because someone goes to church, does not mean they are a disciple of Jesus, and it does not mean they are making disciples of Jesus.

In John's Gospel, Jesus spoke to the Jews who believed him, saying, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' They answered him, 'We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?' ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'" (John 8:31-36, ESV).

Being disciples of Jesus, who make disciples of Jesus, requires intentional abiding in God's word. When we are made free through abiding in God and his word, we can share the good news of God and his word with others, so that they can be set free as his disciples as well.

Disciple making requires intentionality. We must be intentional about making disciples and create a culture and climate in the church that is conducive to discipling as we abide in Jesus together and share the truth of God's freeing and life-giving word with others.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Cities, Towns, and Other Communities: "Heavenly Father, you sent your Son among us to proclaim the kingdom of God in cities, towns, villages, and lonely places. Behold and visit, we pray, every community of disciple makers. Renew the bonds of charity that uphold our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Deliver us from poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with mercy. And at the last, bring us to your Holy City, the new Jerusalem, where we shall know perfect unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (#41., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

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Day 29

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #9

#9. We treated making disciples as a periodic program that deserves an occasional emphasis rather than a purposeful, life-long process that is always Job #1, i.e., “Discipling is everything and everything is discipling.”

When are we finished being a disciple of Jesus? When have we completed the mission of making disciples of Jesus?

Disciple making is not a temporary or periodic program, making disciples is a way of living and ordering our lives. We must highly value and prioritize disciple making. Making disciples of Jesus is a way of life.

Disciple making involves intentionality and purpose as we live into this mission that God has given us each day of our lives.

Making disciples of Jesus is a life-long process that is priority number one in the life of the follower of Jesus.

Jesus said in Luke’s Gospel, “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27, ESV).

To be a disciple of Jesus means we leave our lives for his life for us. We bear our burdens and we “come after” Jesus. This chasing after Jesus is a life-long pursuit, and is a life-giving pursuit, as we follow Jesus as his disciples, and as we make disciples of Jesus in our lives.

In the life of the disciple—the follower of Jesus, being a disciple of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus is everything, and everything is being a disciple of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus.

When we make disciple making everything, we lose nothing, and we gain life itself. As Jesus taught his disciples, “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:24, ESV).

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for a Spirit of Evangelism: “Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#20., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

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Day 30

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #10

#10. We took our eye off the making disciples ball and were seduced into offering “therapeutic consumerism” events where we felt people are itching; e.g. parenting skills, financial skills, divorce recovery, etc., etc. No time left for in-depth (transforming) Bible study and discipling.

What is the difference between “therapeutic consumerism” Christianity and being transformed disciples of Jesus?

There is often a difference between what we need to hear and what we want to hear.

Sometimes we just want some good tips, some feel good advice, or some practical counsel. There is nothing wrong with wanting to have solid life advice, but these practical life skills will not always translate into transformation—making us mature followers of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul told his young disciple, Timothy, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4, ESV).

Self-help and consumer driven Christianity, where it becomes all about me, and “What is in it for me?”, does not produce a mature and Christ-like Biblical disciple. If we seek out teaching that only gives us what we want to hear, we will become disciples of ourselves—stunting our own growth.

As Donald McCullough said it, “An individualistic Christianity leads inevitably to an individualistic god. Those who have been suckled at the breast of American culture will not easily be weaned from the milk of individualism.”

If we are going to be mature disciples of Jesus, we need to get beyond what we want to hear and we need to hear from God and his word. We need sound Biblical teaching that reveals more of Jesus to us, so that we can become more and more like Jesus.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Collect for the Spirit of Prayer: “O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#5., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 31

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #11

#11. We emphasized “knowing” over “doing” and “being.” And valued orthodoxy (right thinking) over orthopraxy (right doing). Then we falsely equated the acquisition of knowledge with spiritual maturity.

*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to **do and teach**. —Acts 1:1*

In being a follower of Jesus—a disciple, which is more important; the head, what you know, the hands, what you do, or your heart, who you are—your being?

Being a disciple of Jesus is holistic. Being a disciple addresses more than just what we know or what we can learn; it effects our knowledge, our being, and our doing.

As disciples of Jesus, our faith is to impact our head, our heart, and our hands—our knowing, our being, and our doing.

Emphasizing knowledge over being and doing fragments and disintegrates who we are, our relationship with Jesus, and our service.

To be a whole disciple of Jesus, our whole person has to be considered—our head, our heart, and our hands—our knowing, our being, and our doing.

The Apostle Paul captured the essence of the mature disciple of Jesus, speaking about the head, the heart, and the hands—the knowing, the being, and the doing, in his letter to the church in Colossae.

Paul writes, “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:14-17, ESV).

As disciples, we are to clothe ourselves with love—we are to put on Jesus. God’s peace and presence is to rule over our hearts—our being.

We are to let the word of God live in us and abound in us. We are to teach one another and to counsel one another in the wisdom of God. Our knowledge of God’s word is to abound, permeating all our thoughts—filling our head.

We are to worship with all our heart, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with one another as one body. We are to have a worship filled being—worshipful hearts.

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Lastly, we are to allow our knowledge of God, and our peaceful and worshipful hearts, to impact how we live our lives and how we live out our lives in service to God.

In everything we do—in all the work of our hands, we are to do everything to the glory of God, and in the name of Jesus, and we are to give God thanks and praise in all things.

May we be disciples of Jesus in our knowing, in our being and in our doing—in our heads, in our hearts and in our hands. May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for the Universal Church: “O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (#1., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 32

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #12

#12. We failed to grasp the genius of Jesus' experiential "Do and Teach" (Acts 1:1) pedagogy for making disciples, substituting in its place a Westernized classroom, cognitive approach of "Teach and Maybe Do."

*What the Evangelists recorded in the Gospels was the sweat, blood, tears, and elation they **experienced** with Jesus. Fisherman and tax collectors came to Jesus, listened to His teachings, witnessed His works, and observed His devotion to the Father. The theology of Jesus in the Gospels is rather thin. But their **experience** of Jesus is rich – so strong and convincing, in fact, that it prompted them to lay down their lives for Him. **Experience** changed them from timid, lukewarm followers into tenacious, blazing disciples of the risen Lord. —Bruce Demerest*

Which is more important, what you say, or what you do? Which comes first, our instruction, or our practice? Would you rather hear a truth taught, or would you rather see a truth modeled and lived out before you?

You may have heard the expression, "Practice what you preach", or "Do not just talk the talk—walk the walk".

These expressions get at the heart of the importance of doing and teaching. It matters that our doing—our practice, comes before our teaching—our instruction of truth.

Right doing and right teaching work well together, but right teaching is less impactful and loses integrity apart from right practice. We must have both right doing—orthopraxy, and right teaching—orthodoxy.

A correct lesson is nothing apart from a correct practice or modeling of that lesson. The most effective teaching is first lived out and then lectured.

This balance and order of doing and teaching is what Jesus modeled for us in The Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus said, "Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:19-20, ESV).

Jesus warns that the person who relaxes a commandment of God is teaching others to also relax that commandment. How we live, and how we obey, or disobey, teaches others.

Jesus orders right practice before teaching. This is why Jesus says this about the commandments, “whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19, ESV).

Jesus criticized the religious leaders by saying that our righteousness must exceed theirs, implying that they were not living out their beliefs or their teachings. Jesus clearly orders and models doing before teaching.

This was also Luke’s testimony of Jesus in Acts when he wrote, “In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (Acts 1:1-2, ESV).

Luke begins Acts with a reflection of his gospel, The Gospel of Luke, saying that he recorded “all that Jesus began to do and teach”. Luke’s observation is the practice of Jesus preceding the teaching of Jesus.

The question for us is, “Are we living out what we believe?” In other words, “Are we doing what we are proclaiming?” Or to put it this way, “Are we practicing what we preach?”

If the answer is “no”, then we can begin to make some changes in our living and in our lessons, recognizing people would much rather see a truth practiced, modeled, and lived out, than hear a truth talked about. A good lesson is lived. Truth is better caught than taught.

Like Jesus, may we live out our faith in what we do and in what we teach as we make disciples. May we teach our faith well by how well we live it out in everything we do.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for All Sorts and Conditions of Men: “O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of men; that you would be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal, that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.” (#40., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 33**Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #13**

#13. The old mentoring model is not working. Most of the gray hairs still don't see themselves as quite ready (yet) to disciple others. They always seem to need to read a few more spiritual books!

Has knowledge gotten in the way of making disciples? Can we suffer paralysis from wanting to know everything, or at least more, before committing to making disciples of Jesus?

Knowledge can "puff us up", or cause us to be prideful, self-absorbed, or self-centered. Our quest for much knowledge can hinder us from wisdom, or practical, or applied, knowledge.

Our "superior knowledge" can cause us to have feelings of superiority, which can cause us to not love our neighbors well.

While we cannot give or teach what we do not have, or do not know, we will also not know everything, so we need to give what we do have.

If we wait until we know everything, or until we know just a little bit more, we will never make a disciple of Jesus. We will never know all that there is to know this side of eternity.

We do not need another good book, or another good resource. We need to get to work and be a good resource for making disciples of Jesus.

Our knowledge can hinder our mission. The Apostle Paul knew this when he wrote the church in Corinth about eating meat offered to idols. Paul said, "Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' This 'knowledge' puffs up, but love builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1, ESV).

For Paul and the early church, knowledge was secondary to loving, and to building up, your brother and sister in Jesus. Right knowing never proceeds a right relationship with God and his church.

It matters less that we have new or perfected knowledge, and it matters more what we do with the knowledge we have. We should love others and build them up by making them disciples of Jesus, by teaching them what we know, and by offering to them what we have to give.

May we be disciples of our Rabbi Jesus and disciple and mentor others to follow and to emulate Rabbi Jesus.

A Prayer for Guidance II: “O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#77., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your perfect wisdom.

Thank You that You always use that perfect wisdom in shaping my life.

Thank you that You know everything about me, and still love me.

Show me the way to go. Lead me in the way of being a disciple of Your Son.

Grant me the courage to go where I would not normally want to go,

And experience that which I would not normally choose to experience.

Empower me with a desire to be a doer, not just a hearer.

Remake me into Your person.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus' Way, p. 68, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Day 34

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #14

#14. We have a 21st-Century, Westernized, industrialized, urban understanding of Jesus, which is not the Near Eastern, village, agrarian, Jewish Jesus of the Gospels who show us how (contextually) to make disciples.

How does our 21st-Century worldview blur the lines between what it meant to make disciples in Jesus' day and how we make disciples today?

If we are going to learn how to make disciples of Jesus in our time, we must understand what it meant to make disciples in the time of Jesus.

Our worldview effects how we read the Bible, understand the Bible, and apply the Bible to our lives. We must understand the scriptures in their context to apply the scriptures in our context. We must also discern the context and the time and culture we are in to make disciples of Jesus, because we make disciples in a specific context.

In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul said it this way:

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." (1 Corinthians 9:19-23, ESV).

Paul understood that he had to understand the context in which he was making disciples and he needed to contextualize his approach to effectively make disciples of Jesus.

May we discern the times, both their time and our time, as we make disciple disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus.

A Prayer for Guidance I: "Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, through your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (#76., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 35

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #15

#15. Making disciples takes place in community with transparency and intimacy. Too many believers are functional Lone Rangers in the church, strangers in the worship crowd. We need to rediscover the biblical paradigm for our life together.

Do you value doing life and discipleship with others or by yourself? Are you an active part of a disciple making community? Are you a member of a local church? Have you returned to community and communal worship since the COVID pandemic?

As followers of Jesus, we need each other. We cannot be a disciple alone and we cannot make disciples alone. God designed us for community.

God has given us the gift of the church, the body of Christ, to help us to make disciples in community. We cannot forsake assembling in the family of God—his church.

The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews wrote, “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV).

We must meet in community to be effective disciples and to make disciples. God’s grand design for discipleship is the church.

We cannot make disciples alone. There are no Lone Ranger Christians. It is in community that we experience making disciples in transparency and in intimacy.

May we be disciples and make disciples in community, not neglecting to meet, recognizing we need community to effectively make disciples.

A Prayer in Times of Social Conflict or Distress: “Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#44., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 36

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #16

#16. We aimed at too small/narrow a target. We failed to disciple the whole person. Peter Scazzero postulates there is no spiritual maturity without corresponding relational and emotional maturity. Why do we fill people up with biblical facts while still letting them continue as emotionally maladjusted, relational misfits in our midst?

When you consider discipleship, do you consider all of life and the whole person?

A.W. Tozer said, “Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.” It is also true that nothing less than a whole person can make a whole Christian. We must consider the whole person in making disciples.

Being human is complex and all the complexities of being human should be considered when we are considering what it means to be a disciple and as we are making disciples.

We cannot focus solely on spiritual maturity, without focusing on corresponding relational and emotional maturity of a person. Practical, physical, and psychological needs must be considered when making disciples of Jesus.

The Apostle John wrote in his first letter, “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” (1 John 3:17, ESV).

James wrote: “If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:15-17, ESV).

We must consider the needs of the whole person in making disciples of Jesus. We cannot neglect the physical and the emotional needs when we are considering spiritual need. If we desire the love of God to abide in us, we must have open hearts to the whole person. The physical and psychological needs of a person matter.

May we consider the whole person when making disciples.

A Prayer for Those We Love: “Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us, especially those we disciple, to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#52., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 37**Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #17**

#17. We fostered a church model where clerics have taken the place of the “priesthood of ALL believers.” We have seminaries (mostly) training church managers, not shepherds of the flock who model discipling.

“Trying to be a disciple of Jesus is not the same thing as training to be His Disciple.”
– Bruce Demarest

Are you aware of your priesthood? Are you living into your priesthood?

The Apostle Peter wrote, “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10, ESV).

We are priests of God and should not outsource or delegate our shepherding responsibilities as we are making disciples.

As Peter wrote, we are to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

It has been rightfully said, “Christianity is not a spectator sport.” We are not spectators. We are participators in the ministry of God to make disciples of all nations.

May we be shepherds of the flock who model discipling.

A Prayer for Vocations to Ordained Ministry: “Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock: We ask you to bestow upon your Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance, and to raise up from among us faithful and able persons called to the ministries of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop. Inspire them to spend and be spent for the sake of the Gospel, and make them holy and loving servants and shepherds of the flock for whom you shed your most precious blood. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.” (#13., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 38**Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #18**

#18. The narcissism of the culture has spilled over into the church resulting in people who think being a disciple of Jesus is a personal journey in self-development, self-actualization, and self-fulfillment. Wrong! Missing are obedience, submission, emulation of Jesus, communion with God and the Body, and yes, joy unspeakable.

How outwardly focused is your church? How outwardly focused are you?

It has been said that the church is the only institution that exists for its non-members. The church, God's people, is not supposed to be narcissistic or self-seeking.

The people of God are supposed to be obedient, submissive, emulators of Jesus, in communion with God and his church—the body of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote the church in Philippi, saying, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3, ESV).

The scripture is clear, thinking of ourselves over others is not God's design or best. We are to consider others as more significant than ourselves in humility and serve others in humility.

May we look beyond ourselves and see the people around us that we are supposed to be discipling and consider others better than ourselves.

A Prayer for in the Morning: “Almighty God, you alone gave us the breath of life, and you alone can keep alive in us the holy desires you impart. We beseech you, for your compassion's sake, to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavors, that we may neither begin an action without a pure intention nor continue it without your blessing. And grant that, having the eyes of our mind enlightened to behold things invisible and unseen, we may in heart be inspired by your wisdom, in work be upheld by your strength, and in the end be accepted as your faithful servants; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.” (#83., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 39

Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #19

#19. We have been dispensing spiritual/biblical facts without frameworks that tie everything together. Ever tried to work a puzzle without seeing the box top? That's why we created a biblical framework for making disciples – it's a missing piece that makes a huge difference.

When we consider the Bible in making disciples, do we consult the whole counsel of scripture and its original context, or do we pick and choose verses and particular facts?

In the Book of Acts, the Apostle Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders, saying, "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." (Acts 20:26-28, ESV).

Paul cared deeply for all the scriptures and declared "the whole counsel of God." Paul also warned that the elders should pay attention and care for themselves and the church through the whole counsel of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote his young disciple Timothy, instructing him, saying, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).

Paul assumed "ALL scripture." Paul assured that "ALL scripture" was to be used, and was beneficial "for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

May we consider and consult the whole counsel of scripture as we make disciples of Jesus.

A Prayer for Union with Christ, by Anima Christi: "Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from thee. From the wicked foe defend me. In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to thee, that with thy saints I may praise thee for ever and ever. Amen." (#96., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Prayer for Preparation for Personal Prayer: "Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love, I cannot pray without your aid: Kindle in me the fire of your love, and illumine me with your light; that with a steadfast will and holy thoughts I may approach the Father in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who reigns with you and the Father in eternal union. Amen." (#97., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 40**Why Discipleship Died Series: Part #20**

#20. It isn't the "Great Commission." That phrase is not in the text. Apple trees don't have to be exhorted to make apples. That's just what apple trees do! In the Greek, Matt. 28:19 reads much more as the "Great Given" - of course disciples will be making disciples. Like apple trees, that's what disciples (super) naturally do!

How are we doing with the "Great Assumption", or the "Great Given", to make disciples?

"Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: 'God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20, The Message).

In Jesus' day, it was a given that disciples made disciples. Teaching and learning were the norm. Discipleship is what disciples do. Students learn and teachers teach. Wisdom and information are to be passed along from person to person. We are to train everyone we meet along our way, instructing them in the practice of everything Jesus commanded.

Making disciples of Jesus is something we are called to do as a disciple of Jesus, every day and with every day that we live.

May we obey the high calling of Jesus' commission to make disciples of all people.

A Prayer Before the Reading of Scripture: "Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your Holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (#101., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Prayer

Lord, thank You for loving me.

Thank You for loving me with the same love You have for Your own Son – what a thought, what a reality!

And Lord, remind me again and again of that overwhelming reality when I look at who I am, and realize yet again how much still needs to be done.

Continue Your work within me. Lead me in the way I should go.

And Lord, help me to get out of my own way.

Give me the courage to give You the keys to all the rooms in my house so that You can renovate each one for Your glory.

Lord, there is so much to do. But I know You are the perfect Grace-Before-Truth Renovator.

I rest in Your promise, that You who have begun a good work within me, will indeed bring it to completion.

Amen.

(Making Disciples Jesus' Way, p. 126, © Douglas J. Greenwold 2005, 2007, 2012)

Comparing Making Disciples THEN with (most) Discipleship NOW

World of Making Disciples (THEN)

Hebrew Way – Doing, Action

More Concrete

Integrated Context is Understood

About Integration & Synthesis –
Keeping Things Together

“Believe” is a Verb – Something You Do

Emphasis on Consistent Behavior

Community More Important Than the
Individual – Sacrifice Personal Rights for the
Benefit of the Community

Concerned with Right Doing

Willingly Submissive to Rabbi’s Authority

Submit to Rabbi’s Interpretation

Willing to Wrestle with the Text for Long
Periods of Time

Focus on Developing Discernment

Memorized their Scriptures

Live Life in Community

Live Integrated, Holistic Lives

Desire to be A Disciple

Total Surrender to their Rabbi’s Interpretive
Authority for Living

Nothing is Hidden or Off Limits to
Rabbinic Scrutiny

Life Issue Oriented

Dialogue Intensive

Focused on Men

Western Discipleship (NOW)

Hellenistic Way – Thinking, Words, Ideas

More Abstract

Most Biblical Context is Missing

About Analysis, Categorization & Labels –
Breaking Things Apart

“Belief” is a Creed – Consenting to a Series of
Propositions

Much More of an Emphasis on Ideas

Individual More Important Than the
Community – Sacrifice Community Harmony for
Sake of Personal Interests

Concerned with Right Thinking

Submissive to No One, Except Myself

Create my own Interpretation of the Text

Preference for Quick, Simplistic Answers
Through Short Encounters with the Text

Lack of Critical Thinking Skills

Widespread Biblical Illiteracy

Functional Lone Rangers

Live in Dichotomized Spheres (Sacred/secular,
faith/work)

Often Content to Just “Believe” in Jesus

Partial, Elective Surrender to Jesus’ Authority as
Convenient

Much of our Lives is Hidden from Others

Conceptually Oriented

Information Transfer Intensive

Seems More Women are Being Discipled
Today than Men

About Doug Greenwold and Making Disciples Jesus' Way

Doug Greenwold was among those who set the standard and crafted the manner by which the context of Scripture could best be taught. Doug's approach was not that of a preacher but of a scholar with his feet on the ground, exploring the mindset of the first-century-agrarian-Hebrew-villager. He adds nothing to the text of the Bible that hasn't been there from its inception but insightfully reveals what had lurked between the lines all along.

As he often reminded us, the teaching of context invites opposition. All too often people learn things that seem to overthrow their earliest, most comfortable convictions about what the Bible has to say, though, upon reflection, come to understand how Doug's teaching enlarges and sharpens the message of the original text, exposing how the intended, original audience would have received it.

Making Disciples Jesus' Way: Wisdom We Have Missed is a book for disciples and discipling practitioners. Its purpose is to challenge and provoke our contemporary Western discipleship and spiritual formation paradigms by providing the contextual backdrop of what it meant to "make disciples" in the Gospels. Then it asks: What are we doing, why are we doing it that way, and what fruit are we getting (or not getting)? The thesis of the book is that, when we reconnect with the "make disciples" contextual presuppositions in the Gospels, we can more clearly see the "missing ingredients" in discipleship today.

This book revisits the Gospel record through the lenses of first-century context. In developing its themes, the book expands our contextual understanding of Pharisaism, observant Judaism, the Kingdom of God, the Covenants, the competing worldviews of the first century, as well as related subjects, making it a very helpful contextual backdrop for anyone wishing to understand the issues of the Gospels more deeply.

Ideal for leadership development, discipleship training, small groups, new member orientation and Adult Education classes, the book's workbook format develops four missing perspectives in our Western approach to disciple making (Chapters 1-4), three patterns of Jesus that seem to be missing in our contemporary discipling methodologies (Chapters 5-7), and two oft-missed pieces essential for the fruitful making of disciples (Chapters 8-9).

Look inside: [Chapter 5 – "Do and Teach"](#)

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Resources

“20 Nuggets of Discipling/Mentoring Wisdom”, © Doug Greenwold, 2015.

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“20 Reasons Why “Discipleship” Died (RIP)”, © Doug Greenwold, 2015.

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About Robbie



Pastor Robbie is from Columbia, SC and moved to Northern Virginia with his wife, Irene, in 2004, to continue his calling to youth ministry. He and his family live in Ashburn, Virginia, where Robbie is the Rector at a Church in Fairfax, Virginia. He and his family also lived in Alexandria, Virginia, where Robbie was the Director of Youth Ministry and Pastoral Associate for four years. Robbie and his family also lived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti for five years, where Robbie was the High School Bible Teacher at a Christian school. Robbie has his Master of Arts in Theology from Columbia International University, a Diploma in Christian Ministry from Trinity School for Ministry, and a B.S. in Bible, with an emphasis on youth ministry, also from CIU. Robbie and Irene have three children, Grace, Hannah, and Simeon. Robbie enjoys spending time with his family, mountain biking, hiking, concert going, studying the Bible and Biblical context, writing poetry, and writing about theology, leadership, and discipleship.

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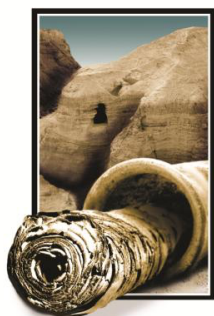
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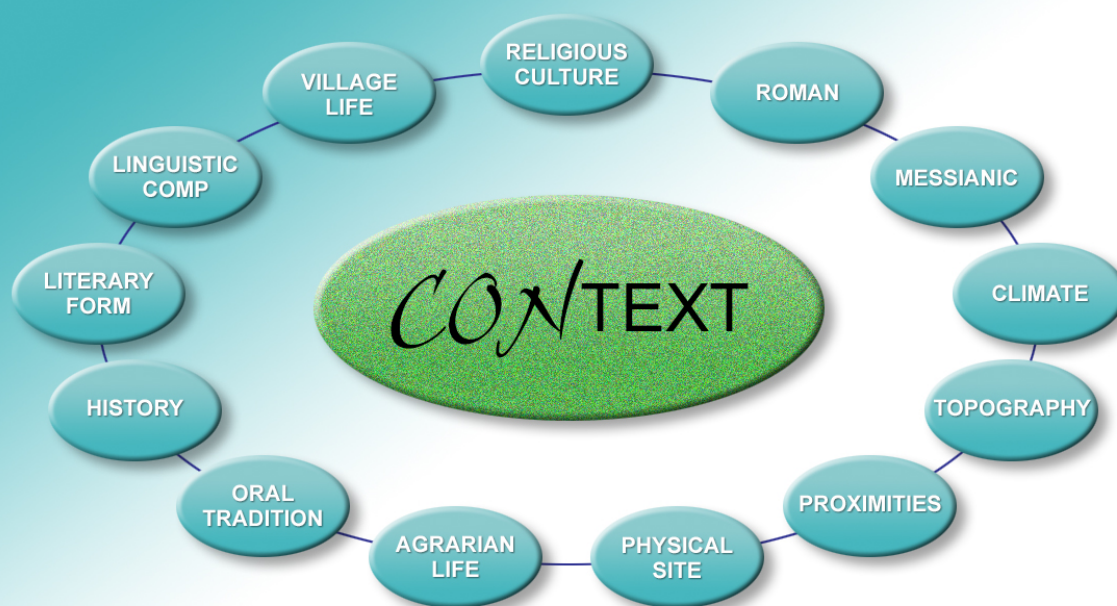


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