

Discipleship Series 10: How Jesus Did Discipleship

Matthew 4:23-5:2



*Matthew 4:23-5:2 And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, **teaching** in their **synagogues** and **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and*

***healing** every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. 24 And the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He **healed** them. 25 And **large crowds** followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. 1 Now when Jesus saw the **crowds**, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. 2 And He opened His mouth and began to **teach** them, saying,*

The gospels show us that Jesus based his discipleship strategy upon relationships. Jesus went about his work of making and growing followers of himself by recognizing people enter into different relational contexts at different times and for different reasons. Because of this, whether it was a public venue like with the “crowds,” or a more intimate venue, like with Peter, James, and John, Jesus met people right where they were. By understanding how Jesus did discipleship, we can consider how to optimize our participation in discipleship opportunities available to us today.

1) Jesus Discipled Publicly by Engaging with the Crowds. The first place Jesus is found teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom is

among the crowds. These crowds represent the public context of relationships. Meaning, people gather together in large numbers to engage with outside resources. People in a crowd relate to one another through a common purpose. Jesus used this common purpose to bring to the people what they needed: the gospel of the kingdom. The limitation of doing discipleship among a crowd is that people cannot develop much relational depth with each other or with the one doing the discipleship. Today, the Sunday morning worship event at church is how public discipleship comes forth in our lives. People gather together in large groups to engage with the preaching and teaching of God’s word. Sunday morning worship is the entry point for discipleship in the church. When we come to church on Sunday this is a statement in our lives that we are here to learn and grow from the preaching of God’s word.