

“DEVELOPING DISCIPLES”

Part 4

OBJECTIVE: DISCOVER WHY BEING A DISCIPLINED LEARNER IS VITAL TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD. EXAMINE WHERE WE ARE IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP.

KEY SCRIPTURES: PHILIPPIANS 4:9/LUKE 6:39-40/

MATTHEW 16:24-26

MOST BELIEVERS HAVE NEVER BEEN INTENTIONALLY DISCIPLINED AND MOST BELIEVERS HAVE NO CLUE HOW TO GO ABOUT DISCIPLINING A NEW BELIEVER.

DISCIPLESHIP INVOLVES A LOT, BUT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH A NEW BELIEVER IS READ THE BIBLE WITH THEM—TEACHING THEM HOW TO READ, UNDERSTAND, RESPOND TO, AND APPLY GOD’S WORD. IF WE DON’T DEVELOP OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, IT IS ALMOST FUTILE TO THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH DISCIPLESHIP WITH NEW BELIEVERS IS THROUGH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. IN OUR CULTURE TODAY THIS IS COMPLICATED TO ACHIEVE BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS CREATED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

IN OTHER WORDS, MOST PEOPLE ARE BEING DISCIPLINED AND NOT MAKING DISCIPLES. THERE ARE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF HOW PEOPLE CHOSE TO BE DEVELOPED. BECAUSE WE LIVE IN THE INFORMATION AGE AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET MAKES SELF DISCIPLESHIP COMPLICATED FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY TO BELIEVERS WHO HAVING WHAT I CALL GROWTH SPURTS. (ROMANS 10:1-4)

IT IS A CONFLICT WHEN WE ARE LIVING ONLY BY SELF DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE WE ELIMINATE EXPERIENCES OF LIFE AND GODLINESS.

HOW CAN I RELATE WHEN I NEVER BEEN TO THE LIONS DEN. HOW CAN I RELATE WHEN I'VE NEVER BEEN THROWN IN A FIERY FURNACE. HOW CAN I RELATE WHEN I HAVE NEVER BEEN ON A SINKING SHIP. HOW CAN RELATE WHEN MY LEADER HAS NEVER BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TO BE KILLED AND THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT KILLING ME TOO. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS SHARING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES WITH BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE. WE ARE ALL LEARNING BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE ALONG WITH EXPERIENCES OF OTHER BELIEVERS.

(1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-13)

DISCIPLESHIP IS BIBLICAL TRUTH TRANSFERRED THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT COMING TO CHURCH, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT GAINING BIBLICAL TRUTH THROUGH OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. THAT IS WHY EPHESIANS 4:15-16 SAYS THE WHOLE BODY JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER.... THAT SPEAKS TO THE PROCESS OF DISCIPLESHIP AND NOT JUST FELLOWSHIP AMONGST BELIEVERS.

WETHER WE ARE GIVING OR RECEIVING IN OUR PROCESS OF DISCIPLESHIP. THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS OUR GROWTH IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. THE MORE DEVOLPED WE BECOME THE MORE WE WILL BE WILLING TO INVEST IN OTHERS.

