

Reset – Part 2

Discipleship: Living the Life Jesus Lived

The CLC Vision

- Win the Lost
- Make Disciples out of the Converts
- Raise up the Next Generation of Leaders

Discipleship: Living the Life Jesus Lived

In Matthew 11:29, Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me...”

John 13:15 NIV - *When washing the disciples feet he said, I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

1 Peter 2:21 NIV - *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

How do we Define Church at CLC?

At Christian Life, we see church as a gathering or a collection of Kingdom-minded believers who understand and are committed to making disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT - *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. v.20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

The life Jesus lived is the life He wants us to live.

Why We Don't Make Disciples

- 1) Personal Ignorance
 - a) Most preachers are ignorant of their true calling.

We are ignorant or we are choosing to ignore the Great Commission. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus did not say go and attract crowds, or go and preach to multitudes, or go and build churches.

There is certainly nothing wrong with great buildings, great presentations, or mass evangelism, but Jesus made it clear that our priority is relational discipleship: “Go and make disciples.”

If Jesus spent 3-1/2 years investing in a small handful of followers, why do we think we can do it a different way?

- b) Most people are ignorant of their personal calling.
 - i) They believe the disciple-making ministry is the preacher’s job.
 - ii) Preachers and teachers are called to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry” (Ephesians 4:12).

2) Lack of Experience

Most of us were not disciplined ourselves.

Even though we were not disciplined, we must now embrace the importance of being mentored in the Kingdom.

3) Preferring Programs over Relationships

Mark 3:14 NIV - *He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.*

- a) Notice that Jesus’ first desire was for a relationship; the work of the ministry was secondary.
- b) Today we have switched this. Our focus is on the work, and the importance of relationships is minimized.

4) Big Crowd Mentality

- a) The modern day church loves big numbers and large crowds.
- b) Jesus gathered crowds but trained the disciples.

Three main characteristics of the crowd:

- i) They live only for themselves. *You are looking for Me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. -John 6:26*
- ii) They lack direction. *...They are like sheep without a shepherd... -Mark 6:34*
- iii) They struggle to make true commitment.

He intentionally challenged His crowds. On one occasion Jesus said to the crowd, “Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you can have no part of Me.”

When the followers of Jesus heard this, many of them said, this teaching is hard. Who can accept it? -John 6:60 NCV

After Jesus said this, many of His followers left Him and stopped following Him. -John 6:66 NCV

5) Lack of Patience

- a) There is nothing glamorous or sensational about discipleship. Spending three years leading a small group seems unimpressive.

This is exactly what Jesus did—yet one of His closest disciples, Peter, ended up denying Him.

- b) Don't ever give up on people!

At first it would have seemed that Jesus wasted three years of His life on Simon Peter but, that was not the case. After Peter repented and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he laid the foundation of the New Testament church and preached the inaugural sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

6) Personal Brokenness

- a) The process of discipleship includes the healing of our souls from past wounds.
- b) We cannot be mature in Christ if we are still bound by sinful habits. Yet many Christians today are stuck in spiritual infancy because they have not gone through the necessary process of healing so they can walk in holiness.

You will never bring others to spiritual maturity if you have not learned to overcome your own brokenness.

Discipleship: Living the Life Jesus Lived

A disciple is a person who is learning to live the life Jesus lived while teaching others to do the same.

John 8:31 - *Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples or "you are my disciples indeed"*

1) The Two-part Calling to Discipleship

- a) Learn to be one
- b) Teach others to do the same

2) What are the key characteristics of the life Jesus lived?

Five Marks of the Christ-life

a) He pleased the Father.

God the Father spoke audibly more than once saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

b) He valued obedience over comfort.

Luke 22:41-44 - *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, v.42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." v.43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. v.44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

c) He had victory over the devil.

d) He had compassion for the lost.

Matthew 9:36-38 - *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. v.37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; v.38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

e) He walked in power.

i) Power-filled Prayer Life

Jesus prayed so much and He prayed so powerfully, that His disciples noticed it and asked Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).

ii) Power-filled Faith Life

Mark 11:22-24 - *And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. v.23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. v.24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

A mountain in Scripture seems to always represent a demonically constructed obstacle in life.

Real disciples are not intimidated by mountains that stand in their way.