



I am a Disciple - Part IV

INTRODUCTION

The first century church started when the Disciples of Christ began to make more disciples. Jesus' last command must be our first concern. He did not ask us to consider disciple making but commanded us to be His disciples who will make disciples.

When the church gets too caught up with being an organisation, we may lose focus on the mission of God. We are saved by grace for good works and to be on mission for God. Disciple making is not meant for just an elite group of believers. It is for everyone who follows Christ.

The early church started in Jerusalem. God allowed persecution to come upon the church so that they will be scattered and move out of Jerusalem. Till today, the church continues to grow even in time of persecution to fulfil God's commission and disciple making.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1a. Briefly recap "The husband with the mountain climbing aspiration" skit. What are some of the issues that prevented him from fulfilling his aspiration?
- Or**
- 1b. Do you have an aspiration? What are some of the preparation steps you have taken to fulfil that? Or have you lost your aspiration along the way? If so, why is that?
2. When Christianity became the official religion of the day in Roman Empire during rule of Constantine the Great, what were some of the causes that made the church lose its disciple making focus?
3. Disciple making is like fishing. When we are "fishing" for men, what are some of the steps we must make? Explain them.
4. Read Acts 8:1-7 (ESV)

Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.

"And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was much joy in that city.”

- i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - ii. Read the passage aloud
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
 - iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
 - v. Some leading questions of the text:
 - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
 - vi. Some application questions of the passage:
 - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?
5. The GABS Process is a simple, systematic and reproducible process to assist us to do discipleship as a church.
- i. Describe and explain the 4 phases of the GABS Process.
 - ii. What are the 8 tools used for the process?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

As a church, we are not called just to gather by ourselves but to understand the world around us and to go to the people who are lost and different from us. Let us plant the seed of the gospel and fulfil His great commission for us.

- Are we committed to be a disciple of Christ?
- Are we committed to make disciples for Christ?

ARE YOU A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

“And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” ~ Matthew 4:19 (ESV)