

Jesus' Model of Discipleship

If we want to learn how to disciple others, the best place to start is with the original disciple-maker: Jesus of Nazareth. What can we learn from Jesus' commission to make disciples and his own approach to calling and training the Twelve? In this short talk, Tom Streeter explores the importance of Jesus' life and teachings for disciple-makers today.

Tom Streeter served for 33 years as the teaching elder of the church he planted in Zionsville, Indiana, and now serves as the fulltime director of *The Institute for Christian Thought*, an organization he founded in 1997 with the aim of calling followers of Christ to a full-orbed life of thinking and living Christianly. With over 50 years experience in pastoral ministry, and having planted churches in Illinois and Indiana, his work has been characterized by a devotion to worship, community, developing disciples within the context of the local church and a focus upon believers discerningly engaging the world in their various callings. His lifelong studies in theology, the church, and history have included tours focused upon the Reformation in Europe and the First Great Awakening in upper New England.

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19 was, "Go into all the world and make disciples..."

- B. Disciples are "made," not born.

- C. So, the big question before us is: "How do we *make* disciples?"

- D. Jesus' selection of 12 men and his manner of discipling is a profound and life-long study.
 - 1. When we think about it, Jesus provides the basic and most complete model of disciple-making.
 - 2. He was the founder of Christianity and included in this founding was his plan for making disciples, which he modeled as he "made disciples."
 - 3. Therefore, before any other model of discipleship, it is important that we study and learn from the strategy he designed, demonstrated, and called and trained his disciples to follow.

- E. Mark 3:13 & 14 provides a basic outline of his approach.

II. "He chose 12"

A. From among all those who had been listening to him and following him, he was not reluctant to choose a small group.

B. What to look for in selecting

1. Eager
2. Teachable
3. Available

III. “That they might be with Him

A. There is a “witness” in discipleship, a relationship to the discipler (and others in the group)

B. Relationship is necessary for building trust

C. Calls the discipler to be authentic

IV. “That He might send them out...”

A. Relational and theological training

B. Reproduction

1. Pre-evangelism
2. Evangelism
3. Conversion
4. Maturation
5. Reproduction