

The Master's Plan for Making Disciples

We live in the “Baptist Belt” that pushes decisions for Christ as almost an end in itself. In “The Master’s Plan for Making Disciples” by Win and Charles Arn, they state that evangelism focuses on decision-making, not disciple making. Our mission is not only decision focused (evangelism), but our mission is to introduce sinners to a transforming grace, coupled with Christian discipleship that helps them be effective ministering Christians on the road to heaven.

George Whitefield was notably one of the best, if not the best, preachers in history. Listen to what was said about him in “John Wesley’s Class Meeting: A Model for Making Disciples” by D. Michael Henderson . . .

One of his later admirers, the American Benjamin Franklin, sized up his style this way: ‘Every accent, every emphasis, every modulation of voice was so perfectly well-turned and well-placed, that, without being interested in the subject, one could not help being pleased with the discourse; a pleasure of much the same kind with that received from an excellent piece of musick.’

George Whitefield was a phenomenal orator. Here is what George Whitefield said near the end of his ministry concerning the conservation and discipling of his converts versus the disciplined converts of John Wesley, “My brother Wesley acted wisely- the souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in class, and thus preserved the fruits of his labor. This I neglected, and my people are a rope of sand.”

My people are a rope of sand! My people are a rope of sand! What was he saying? I saw a great number of decisions for Christ, but I failed miserably in making disciples! Most of us, if not all of us would concur with that thought. The great question is, “how many of us are effectively producing dynamic disciples?”

Do we really value making disciples? Do you value making disciples? If so, how many did you make and how well are they doing? If you didn’t do it effectively or didn’t do it better this year than the previous, we need to evaluate our disciple-making system. What actual value does it have?

What would happen if each one of us would just simply start making disciples? Start pouring our lives into at least two persons or even three persons or like Jesus, 12 people. What would happen then if those persons did the same thing

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In Cali, Columbia, the fastest growing Church of the Nazarene in the world. It has grown from 300 to over 6,000 in two years since applying a disciple making method. They have increased 20 times in two years. God is doing a new thing through a tried and tested ministry. It is disciple making according to the model of Jesus Christ

You say, but Pastor we don't have 300. Start with what you have, if it is only 30, start with 30. Even 30 times 20 is pretty phenomenal! Dallas District, instead of declining and dying, it is time to live. Instead of sounding the retreat and talking about what we can't do, it is time to get the angelic trumpet out and sound the charge.

This is the divine mandate of the Master, to be forever discipling, forever making disciples. Will you commit to work with me in helping disciple at least one person this next year deeper into Christ-likeness?

For more information on the new discipling ministry, "The Master's Plan" on the Dallas District, please call the district office at 972-231-3281 or email us at office@dallasnaz.org.