Lesson # 11 The Ministries of Jesus

l What is a Disciple

*Definition: Disciple: One who accept the teaching of a master and often assists in spreading them*

A. Two fundamental principles in disciple making

1. It takes a lot of **Time** to make a **disciple**.

2. You only need a willing **heart** to start. One of our greatest excuses to keep us from training new believers is, If I were a little older, or wiser, or smarter, or knew the Bible better, etc. I would disciple a new Christian.

B. Jesus had a method of training disciples.

1. Jesus demonstrated HIS TRAINING METHOD in His relationship with the original twelve. His objective was to make **disciples** , not just **converts**.

a. His time was **Short.** His ministry was only 3.5 years. Most of us spend more time in college than that. Therefore, he had to do it in a brilliant manner.

b. His confidence was in **Common** men.

c. His strategy was to do a  **lasting** work in the lives of a **few** faithful men and women.

d. His goal was to **Concentrate** His divine life and resources in the lives of His **disciples.**

C. Jesus’ ministry was devoted to three areas:

1. **Public** Group ministry.

2.  **Private** ministry to the disciples**.**

3. **Personal** relationships with the men He trained

II. The Ministry of Jesus

A. The personal ministry

1. The power of the ministry flowed from within, to a few and them progressively outward. There was a closer relationship with **1**  disciple, found in *John**19:26*

*John**19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! (KJV)*

2. His close relationship expanded to **3**  disciples, found in Matt 17:1-2 . He had a more **personal** relationship with these three.

*Matt 17:1-2 1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. (KJV)*

B. The private Ministry

1. His immediate circle expanded to **12** disciples, found in Acts 1:13. These twelve became the nucleus of his **private** ministry.

*Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.*

C. His public ministry

1. His ministry expands to over **70** disciples, found in Luke 10:1 making it more **public**.

*Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. (KJV)*

2. His influenced expands to **120** disciples, found in Acts 1:13-15

*Acts 1:13-15 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. 15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) (KJV)*

3. His effect grows to over **500** believers found in 1 Cor 15:6

*1 Cor 15:6After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. (KJV)*

D. The **multitude** were mainly left for his disciples to teach

1. Jesus invested His maximum time equipping those who would bear the maximum spiritual responsibility in the future life of the church.

He gave us the **gifts** of the Holy Spirit to **prepare** us to help others.

*Eph 4:10-12 1 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (NAS)*

2. Jesus spent more time with the **three** than He did with the **twelve**. He spent more time with the **70** than with the **120** or the **\_500**. He spent more time with the believers than He did the **Non- Believers** , and he spent the most time with the men who bear the greatest responsibility, that being Peter, James , and John.

**III. Jesus' example is reflected in the lives of His disciples.**

A. Barnabas

1. Barnabas was a disciple and a man of encouragement. It was he that was chiefly responsible for the acceptance of Paul and was a chief discipler of Paul.

*Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), (NIV)*

*Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly inthe name of Jesus. (NIV)* *Acts 11:26 Acts 15:35-36*

B. Paul

1. Paul after being discipled mainly by Barnabas begins to look to disciple someone.

*Acts 16:1-3 1 And he came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. (NAS)*

C. The discipling of John Mark

1. Paul

*Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. (NIV)*

2. Barnabas

*Acts 15:39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, (NIV) (See also 2 Tim 4:11)*

3. Peter

*1 Pet 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. (NIV)*

D. The discipling of Apollos

1. Aquila and Pricilla

*Acts 18:24-26 24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. (KJV)*

F. We have a pattern:

1. The plan of Jesus was for the strong disciple to train another to become a strong disciple. We never know how mightily God will use the person you have discipled.

2. Barnabas discipled Paul and Paul wrote most of the books in the new testaments and planted multiple churches across Asia.

3. John Mark was discipled by many and became one of our four gospel writers.

4. In the Old Testament Elijah discipled Elijah and Elijah did twice as many miracles than Elijah.

5. Even today, if you ask some of our great teacher and preachers, they will tell you that someone discipled them.

D. Discipleship continued after the recording in the Bible.

1. John (the apostle) discipled a man, Saint Polycarp who was martyred for his faith in Smyrna.

2. Polycarp discipled a man, Saint Irenaeus who became known as the early father of Catholic theology.

(See added pages.)

3. The greatest testament to your work as a discipler is when the one you discipled becomes better than you and disciples another.