



Empowering People to Change the World

7 Aspects of Wholehearted Discipleship

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Mark 6:7-30 | 7 Aspects of Wholehearted Discipleship

Ex. The other day, one of our friends came over and they showed us their newborn baby. The little baby is only six weeks old, but my oh my does that little one look like daddy. The rosy cheeks and the cute little ears and eyes, look so much like the father. The first command in scripture is “be fruitful and multiply” and it is natural to do so. As we do so, so we become parents, then grandparents, then great grandparents!

Just as we naturally reproduce our own, so it should be in the spiritual. God desires that we “be fruitful and multiply” spiritually. Our model comes from Jesus.

Jesus could have preached to thousand daily and only scratched the surface of our world. Thousands upon thousands exposed to his teaching would have built a powerful movement—only to be short lived upon his departure. The plan of Jesus was always to reach not only the Jews but the entire world.

Jesus had a worldwide scope envisioned as his strategic plan begins to unfold. He has a vision for empowering a few men with the nature and plan of salvation by

- spending time with them,
- training them one-on-one,
- teaching them his kingdom ways,
- doing ministry that they can observe.

Jesus’ Plan A is the making of disciples. This was the command to every Jesus follower! Go and make disciples! It is the local church built on making disciples that changes the world.

Jesus commanded us to make disciples: *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

If we make the building of the church our focus, we will get consumers. If we make the building of disciples our focus, He will build a movement.

We build disciples. Jesus builds the church. We are never called to build a church, we are called to make disciples. If we build disciples, He will build the church

The methods of Jesus are just as anointed as the teaching of Jesus. Jesus was the “first-born disciple.” Jesus was the perfect Spirit filled Man. He showed us that the fundamental methodology in making disciples was through relationships grounded in truth and love

The Gospel spread to the known world within three centuries without radio, TV, printing, satellites, email, or the internet because the early church understood reproductive discipleship as modeled by Jesus

- Jesus first called men to be fishers of men—Mark 1

Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

- Later he he sets apart twelve men with a set purpose, that not only includes preaching the kingdom of God but now has an additional ministry—Mark 3

14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: ¹

- Jesus’ curriculum is taught through modeling, through parables, through Q/A
- It appears that one of the main purposes of Jesus’ training of the twelve is the elevation of faith—faith to believe in the supernatural

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 3:13–15). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Jesus had been teaching them, modeling to them, taking them along, but now it's time for them to do the stuff themselves
- The Jewish Law had a saying, "The sent one is as the man who commissioned him."

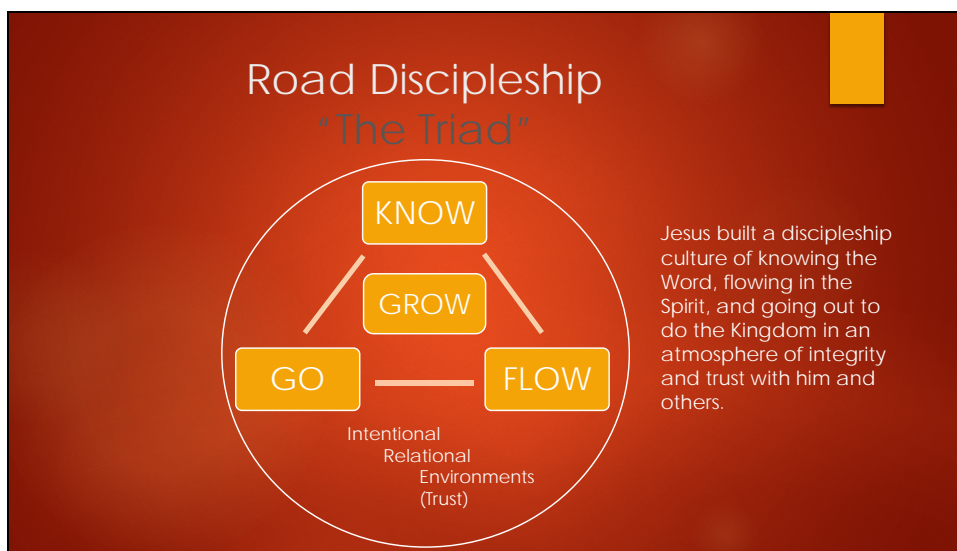
Mark 6:7

And He called the twelve to *Himself*, and began to send them out two *by two*, and gave them power over unclean spirits. 8

He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts—9 but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.

10 Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. 11 And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"

12 So they went out and preached that *people* should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.²



² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:7–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We Observe several things in the Training of the Twelve

We Observe 7 aspects of wholehearted discipleship that we haven't seen before in Mark:

1. **“And He called the twelve to *Himself*”** Jesus called them to himself—personal discipleship all starts here—in a personal growing intimate relationship with Christ. Wholehearted Disciples have a Heart to Heart Relationship with Jesus. They are Growing in their Intimacy with Christ.
 - The call to wholehearted discipleship begins with your heart relationship with Jesus
 - Loving Him, worshipping Him, falling in love with the person of Jesus
2. **“began to send them out two by two,”** They were called to go out two-by-two, in relationship. Men with men. We don't go at this “Christian thing” alone! You have to have comrades. Wholehearted Disciples don't go Alone.
 - Men, we really struggle here. We are so independent and maverick—we are taught from being a toddler that you have to do it alone
 - Ex. Like the portrait of Atlas—you will be crushed by God. You need the courage to collapse. You need brothers in your life who will pick you up, bandage your wounds and carry you
 - Do not walk alone. Naturally we live a guarded life. We need a band of brothers. We need community.
 - You need a D Group of comrades. You need a C Group...
3. **“and gave them power over *unclean spirits*”** They had power from Jesus, not their own power, but power from the One who commissioned them. Wholehearted Disciples Possess

Kingdom Power.

- You have power to cast out demons
- You are a son and daughter of the King

Vs. 8 He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts—9 but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.

4. He's telling them to live simply. You don't need that much. Go out with just the things you absolutely need. Don't beg but trust. Wholehearted Disciples Live Simply.
 - Ex. Dominic, while in Rome, seeking authorization for his order from the Pope, the Pope gave him a tour of the treasures of the Vatican, and remarked complacently (referring to Acts 3:6), "Peter can no longer say, 'Silver and gold have I none.'" Dominic turned and looked straight at the Pope, and said, "No, and neither can he say, 'Rise and walk.'"
 - A disciple must live simply but not let finances get in the way of going out

Vs. 10 Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"

5. He's telling them not to fret, worry, or become frustrated over those who don't agree with them or follow them. Wholehearted Disciples Forgive and Move on with those who Reject Them.
 - Move on and let God take care of those who reject them. It's so easy to feel that you are the one being rejected—but they are rejecting Christ

- Jews upon reentering Jewish territory, always dusted their feet off, to show contempt for the pagan religions of the Gentiles. Jesus is saying to treat those who rejected them as if they were pagans

Vs.12 So they went out and preached that *people* should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.

6. They were sent out to proclaim the kingdom and also demonstrate the kingdom. Wholehearted Disciples are Proclaiming and Demonstrating a Holistic Gospel.
 - The kingdom of God is Word and Deed! We are called by Jesus to preach but also with authority to heal
 - This is the only place in the gospels where the anointing with oil is used
 - Throughout the Bible, oil is associated with the Holy Spirit
 - Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are called to heal the spirit and the body

Vs. 14

Now King Herod heard of *Him*, for His name had become well known. And he said, “John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.” Others said, “It is Elijah.”

And others said, “It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets.” But when Herod heard, he said, “This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!” For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”

19 Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that

he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

21 Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief *men* of Galilee. And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you." He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

26 And the king was exceedingly sorry; *yet*, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard *of it*, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. ³

7. Being a Jesus Disciple has the potential to get you in a lot of trouble. Wholehearted Disciples are Dangerous.

- Men and women who don't care what people think, who have nothing to lose, are dangerous!
- John the Baptist and the early church proclaimed a dangerous gospel
- No fear
- These 7 aspects are what Jesus taught his men. They then were

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:14–30). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

sent out to preach, to demonstrate, and then reproduce into others

- Ex. One man equipping another man for 6 months, then that man who has been discipled, then taking on one man for 6 months, and the first disciple takes on another. After two years there are 4 disciples. So the 4 of them then take on one man. That makes 16 after two more years. At the end of three years there are 64; the 16 doubling twice. At the end of 5 years there are 1,024 disciples. At the end of fifteen years and half years, there are approximately 2,147,500,000 disciples

PP Diagram:

Dangerous Discipleship!

Year 1	2 Disciples
Year 2	4 Disciples
Year 3	8 Disciples
Year 4	16 Disciples
Year 5	32 Disciples
Year 6	64 Disciples
Year 7	128 Disciples
Year 8	256 Disciples
Year 9	512 Disciples
Year 10	1024 Disciples
Year 20	1,048,496 Disciples
Year 35	8,589,279,232 Disciples!