

Daily Quiet Times Alone With God Discipleship, Disciplemaking and Spiritual Reproduction

Introduction...

I. Discipleship, Spiritual Reproduction and being more conscientious than God...

As I begin this series of Quiet Times I must admit to a little confusion. I have recently returned from a mission trip where I met briefly with a member of the international board of directors of an organization long known for the term Discipleship and Disciplemaking, a ministry which more than any, heralded the Disciplemaking ministry. My question was simple, “When did you stop using the words “Disciple” and “Disciplemaking” I new there was a movement among many denominations and pastors to do away with these words. I have been amazed at the vehemence and zeal with which I have heard conservative evangelical pastors speak against the use of the words “Disciple” and “Disciplemaking” both from the pulpit and in staff meetings. I was taken back though to discover that the terms had fallen into almost complete disuse in this great mission movement, being replaced by the more trendy secular term “mentor”, a term already in full use in the church. He simply shrugged his shoulders and replied that he did not know.

In protecting the name of Christ and in holding our Savior above all others we do not have to be more conscientious than God. We do not have to replace or forbid the use of a term for the sake of our loyalty to Christ when God not only does not forbid the use of the term but instead commands it. I understand the misplaced zeal of these emotions - “Jesus made disciples”; “Jesus was the disciple maker”; “There were 12 disciples”; “We are all Christians in a classless spiritual kingdom” and the list goes on. The argument by these zealous and over conscientious Bible teachers and ministers is that man should never aspire to “make Disciples”, only Jesus can do that, it is part of His holy calling, we should not put ourselves up as little Jesus’ making our own disciples.

These statements and reasonings however do not negate the Biblical use of Disciple and injunction to “make Disciples” in the holy Scriptures. True Jesus made disciples but that does not mean we are not to make disciples. Jesus preached the gospel, it is not audacious for us to preach the gospel. Jesus taught the holy Scriptures, it is not audacious for us to teach the holy Scriptures. Jesus sent out men trained to witness and preach the gospel, it is not audacious for us to send out men trained to witness and preach the gospel. Jesus not only made disciples but commanded us to do the same and it is not audacious for us to make disciples and pass this command, this Great Commission on to others. We are not seeking to become little Messiahs when we witness, we are not seeking to become little Messiahs when we teach and we are not seeking to become little Messiahs when we make disciples. We are rather seeking to obey Christ and conform ourselves to His teachings, His commands and yes, the terms He employed in giving these commands. If Jesus tells us to “make disciples” we do not have to protect the church from the term or phrases Jesus used. If Jesus tells us to “make disciples” we do not decide on our own that Jesus just did not realize how volatile and prideful it would be to allow others to use this term and then come up with another.

II. Words chosen by God the Holy Spirit are neither parochial nor archaic

A second reason for the shift from “Disciple” and “Disciple Making” to “Protégé” and “Mentoring” is that the latter two words are driven today by the secular market place and educational models. These are popular catch phrases. The danger here though is that contemporary terms soon go out of style and even lose their meaning. Not only this but contemporary concepts may be discredited by the next big idea. Contrastingly the Word of God is eternal, it never goes out of style and is never discredited. There is always the danger of devaluing the Word of God through the substitution of contemporary terms for Biblical ones. There is also a danger of pride on the part of teachers of the Word. It is easy for those who are seeking to make their teaching come alive for their students or audience to begin to resent the constrictions of Scripture. True I Corinthians 9:22 allows us to think outside the cultural box (“*To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.*”) It is equally true though that 1 Corinthians 4:6 warns us that against falling prey to the arrogance that causes us to think outside the Book, (“*Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.*”) We do not need to “fix” words chosen by Godly the Holy Spirit. The Word of God says plainly concerning His choice of words in *Proverbs 30:5* “*Every word of God is tested...*” We need not test the words of God to see if they will be helpful or useful, He has already tested them, they are used by Him by choice. They are not parochial, they are not archaic, if they bother us the problem is ours and

not the holy Scripture. We do not improve upon the Word of God, rather we are ambassadors who deliver the message.

III. Disciple and Disciplemaking vs. “Protégé” and “Mentor” – Words have meaning

If as has been stated Proverbs 30:5 *“Every word of God is tested...”* then the meaning of the word chosen by God the Holy Spirit is very important to Him. Decide for yourself if the word “mentor” and “protégé” accurately conveys the force of meaning in the following passages...

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"

Vs.

Go therefore and mentor all nations...

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples , if you have love for one another."

Vs.

By this all men will know that you are My protégés...

The words “Disciple” and Disciple maker or “make Disciples” are a very intentional terms. They presuppose certain things which are known, which are part of ones character and which are practical skills, which are passed on to the one being disciplined. It is not merely a matter of influence, of networking, nor of socialization but rather of intentional training. Disciple is a far more radical word than Protégé and to make Disciples is a far more intentional word than to Mentor. The emotional impact and the specter of discipline and sacrifice are much greater, which is why in both education and in the market place mentor rather than disciple is used and which for the same reason in the church and in the ministry disciple not mentor was chosen by God the Holy Spirit.

IV. Discipleship and Disciplemaking – the cart before the horse

I know of several churches which have started mentoring programs. The response from young couples is almost universally the same, “Nice people but they do not really have anything to say.” Unintentional mentoring is always iffy at best. The problem is pretty basic – most businessmen are not memorizing Scripture; most businessmen are not reading through the Bible each year; most businessmen do not have an organized plan for sharing the gospel in their sphere of influence; most businessmen are not living debt free; most businessmen are not living in victory over licentious material on the internet – true there are a stellar few, but the reality is that most are not. For most churches before they can start a mentoring program, more or less a Disciplemaking program, the pastoral staff needs to disciple some leaders. For most mentoring programs the standards are simple, a regular church attender who has a reputation for being a nice guy (and of course tithing is also a big plus). The cart then is too often put before the horse. The question of selecting mentors is asked without reference to training mentors. The question of the standards of life are almost totally subjective. Unlike Discipleship which begs true cognitive questions in the areas of Know, Be and Do, the issue of mentoring is similar to that of a small group leader – “Do we have any nice guys who will run these things for us?”.

V. Discipleship and Disciplemaking – follow me and I will make you attendees of meetings

Jesus Christ said in Matthew 4:19 *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* Jesus the Disciple maker had training in mind when He selected these men to be Discipled and Jesus Christ had training in mind when He sent out these trained Disciples to make Disciples. If most pastors were honest they would admit that their primary goal in their mentoring program is the same in their small group ministry – to conserve the Sunday morning attendees. That is why they are called Small Groups and not Bible Studies. They are social situations to create a sense of institutional belonging. That is why it is called Mentoring and not making Disciples, because it is meant to create a standard of attending and tithing, just like the older men in the church attend and tithe. The problem is God calls men to do Bible Study, not attend small groups and God calls men to make Disciples not mentor men in the proper decorum of institutional meetings. It is the hope of the author that these meditations upon the Word of God will raise your personal standards in the area of Discipleship, Disciplemaking and Spiritual Reproduction.

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Grace Community Int – St. Petersburg, Russia

September 2009

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:19 & 20

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 8:1 – 16

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 50:4 & 5

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 8:18 - 27

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 9:35 – 38

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 10:24 - 27

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 10:38 - 42

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 12:46 – 50

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 16:24 – 28

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 21:1 – 6****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 10:35 – 45****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 16:14 & 15****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 6:20 – 38

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 11:1 – 10

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 12:22 – 34

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 12: 35 – 40

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 12:41 – 48

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 12:49 – 53

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD
JEREMIAH 15:16
THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 14:26

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 14:27

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 14:28 - 33

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 16:1 – 13****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 17:1 – 4****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 17:5 - 10****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Discipleship

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 22:24 – 27

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 4:27 – 38

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 6:60 – 71

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 8:31 & 32****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 11:16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 13:1 – 17****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 13:34 & 35****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 6:1 – 7****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 11:19 – 26****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship and Spiritual Reproduction****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:19 & 20**

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Judges 2:1 - 10

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalms 78:5 – 8; Isaiah 59:21

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship and Spiritual Reproduction****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 3:14; Acts 4:13**

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 6:40

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 12:23 – 26

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship and Spiritual Reproduction****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 11:1**

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 4:16 & 17

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Philippians 2:20 - 22

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Discipleship and Spiritual Reproduction****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 1:6 - 9**

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 4:1

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 2:1 & 2

What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?

From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?

How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: THEME: Discipleship and Spiritual Reproduction****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 6:12****What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?****From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?****How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 13:7****What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?****From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?****How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:19 & 20****What does this passage teach concerning the principle of spiritual reproduction?****From this passage what must I know, be and do in order to spiritually reproduce myself in the life of another?****How can I apply this passage in terms of those whom I am leading in Bible study or to those to whom I am ministering?**