

THE APPRENTICE

Disciple - Greek: Matheteuo v.

1. to be a disciple of one - to follow his precepts and instructions
2. to make a disciple - to teach, instruct

Apprentice n.

1. One bound by legal agreement to work for another for a specific amount of time in return for instruction in a trade, art, or business.
2. One who is learning a trade or occupation,
3. A beginner; a learner.

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to catch people." ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

~Matthew 4:18-20 (TNIV)

... to make disciples, we must intend to make disciples. We are not talking about the duties of "full-time" workers, but the duties of a friend and neighbour. Multitudes of those who constantly hear us and follow us whoever we are, as well as those who observe us from a distance, will respond with gratitude and joy that they have been given a realistic opportunity to learn how to live in the kingdom.

~Dallas Willard

"Pass on what you have learned, Luke."

~Yoda (Jedi Master)

The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.

~C. S. Lewis

So it is clear that a pervasive intention to make disciples would radically change the character of the church, the "visible" people of God, as we know it. Just a strong minority of genuine disciples in the membership of a congregation or group would have an incredibly transforming effect. Almost every problem that we see afflicting, paralyzing, and even killing Christians and groups of Christians today would never even arise in a context where the primacy of apprenticeship to Jesus is accepted and developed through a corresponding course of training.

~Dallas Willard

Disciples cannot be mass produced. We cannot drop people into a program and see disciples emerge at the end of the production line. It takes time to make disciples. It takes individual personal attention.

~Leroy Eims

"You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case."

~Ken Kesey

...you lead people to become disciples of Jesus by *ravishing them* with a vision of life in the kingdom of the heavens in the fellowship of Jesus. And you do this by proclaiming, manifesting, and teaching the kingdom to them in the manner learned from Jesus himself. You thereby change the belief system that governs their lives.

~Dallas Willard

You're Hired!

~Donald Trump

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

~Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)