

WORD

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." MATTHEW 4:19

WHAT

Jesus called the people to follow Him—to connect to Him relationally. When Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples, He expected them to disciple people just like how He modeled it to them, always in the context of relationship. How did Jesus do discipleship?

1 Jesus connected His disciples to Himself.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. JOHN 15:15

The disciples are used to addressing Jesus as "Rabbi" or "Master," but in this verse, Jesus reaffirms to them that He is not just the Messiah and a Teacher to them but a "Friend," indicating the kind of relationship He wants His disciples to have with Him. How do you see Jesus as your Friend? How do you see those you are discipling?

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2 Jesus prayed for the believers to be connected in relationship for them to experience God in full.

...²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ...²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them. JOHN 17:21,26

In the latter part of Jesus' ministry on earth, He prayed for the believers to be connected as one in order for them to experience the fullness of God in their lives and corporately enjoy His love. The Apostle Paul stressed the importance of this principle in Hebrews 10:25. What benefits have you received since you got connected in church?

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3 Jesus encouraged His disciples to connect with one another to advance His kingdom.

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." JOHN 13:34,35

A message is only as effective as its messenger. When followers of Jesus and bearers of the gospel love one another and are in unity, this amplifies the Good News. The love you share with fellow believers is the same love that you share to the world. How does living out the gospel help in advancing God's kingdom?

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