

Vision Casting

I. Investment

Jesus tells us that we have been given “talents” to invest in His Kingdom until He returns (Luke 19:11-17; Matthew 25:14-30). He says in John 6:27 that we are to labor for that which is eternal. Therefore, what are the eternal things worthy of our investment?

1. People – Matthew 25:46
2. God’s Word – Isaiah 40:8

II. Cost

Your time, talents, treasure... your life

(See I Thessalonians 2:8; Isaiah 58; Matthew 25:31-46; Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 8:34-35)

III. Return on Investment (not the “American” way)

A gifted evangelist leads 1,000 people to Christ per day every day of the year.
End of Year 1, the evangelist reached 365,000 people. Phenomenal!!

Compare to disciple-maker who leads 1 person to Christ per year.
End of Year 1, she has reached 1 person

But suppose the disciple-maker has not only led that woman to Christ, but discipled her... prayed with her, taught her how to feed herself from the Bible, gotten her into a fellowship of Christians, shown her how to present the gospel to others. At the end of Year 1, the convert is established in her faith and is able to lead another woman to Christ and follow-up with her.

Year 2 – the disciple-maker has doubled her ministry, 1 has become 2.
Each woman goes out and leads and trains (not 1,000/day) one woman per year.
At the end of Year 2, we have 4 people.

This is slow. But we have more than converts, we have disciples who can reproduce themselves. At this rate of one woman per year, the discipleship ministry will numerically overtake the evangelist at year 24 (16,777,216 to 8,760,000)... from then on the disciple-making, multiplying ministry will grow faster than the ministry of dozens of gifted evangelists. (We do need evangelists! But an evangelist alone can never complete the task of reaching a lost and dying world.)

IV. Three Pillars of Discipleship

1. Prayer – Luke 6:12
2. Relationship (Agape) – Mark 3:14
 - a. Transparency
 - b. Accountability
3. Content (Word of God) – II Timothy 3:16-17

Discipleship is a relationship in which a person is investing into another person in order to help that person grow in maturity in Christ. It is a transformational process.

“Transformation occurs when we grapple with the truth of God’s Word in the context of transparent relationships... Honesty with God is not sufficient. We give God permission to reshape our lives when we risk self-revelation and confession to others. We cannot grow in Christ by ourselves. We are people made for community.” ~Greg Ogden, *Transforming Discipleship*

V. Selection

1. Jesus’s example:
 - a. Pray (Luke 6:12-16)
 - b. Go fishing (See the beginning of the Gospels)
 - c. Read Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman
2. Pray for one gal – See Jeremiah 5:1
3. Find a woman who is F.A.T.
 - a. Faithful
 - b. Available
 - c. Teachable
 - d. See II Timothy 2:2 and I Kings 19:16/II Kings 2:2

“I would rather have one man who is completely sold out for Christ than 99 who are lukewarm.” ~Cecil Bean

“The Kingdom of God grows by investing in a minority population... Obviously this method is not one that brings change quickly. It takes time. It doesn’t make the headlines. It is a person-to-person approach. We tell others the good news and people are publicly baptized. Then we teach them to do everything Jesus taught us, including how to make more disciples, all until the story is told to all the earth. When this is complete, Jesus says that he will return and make things right.” ~Bill Hull