



## **GCD: Making the Gospel Core to Life**

Course Outline | Jonathan K. Dodson | Spring 2019

- Name, What do, Get out of class
- 6 classes, 90%. Theology and practice
- Book: GCD, Discipling by Dever
- Intro tonight
- John, Ashley jobs, doubts
- Evangelism, Parents, Mission field, improve FC

### **I. Vision: Make disciples?**

#### a. Staggering Early Church Growth

- i. What starts as a 300 people in Palestine, numbers around 30 million by 350 A.D.—how?
- ii. Jerusalem
  1. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7
- iii. Judea/Samaria
  1. So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. 9:31
  2. But the word of God increased and multiplied. 12:24
- iv. Rome
  1. Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.” 23:11
  2. He lived there two whole years at his own expense,[g] and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance 28
  3. Growth by Addition vs Growth by Multiplication
    - a. Event driven vs. Disciple driven
    - b. Neil Cole & 2 Tim 2:2, 4 physical generations in one spiritual generation

#### b. Great Commissions



- i. Mark's commission reads: "*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation*" (Mk. 16:15).<sup>1</sup>
- ii. Matthew: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations*
  1. Imperative
  2. All people not for professionals "with you to end of age"
  3. Baptize, Teach,
- iii. Luke's commission also emphasizes preaching the gospel: "*repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things*" (Luke 24:47-48).
  1. In particular, we are called to preach "repentance and forgiveness of sins."
  2. A social gospel will not suffice
  3. Luke calls us to witness—to tell our distinct gospel stories. No two stories are alike, but all share the same Savior.
- iv. John's commission is short and sweet: "*As the Father sent me, I am also sending you*" (John 20:21).
  1. In light of John's commission, what do you think about to John Piper's statement, "we are either goers, senders, or disobedient"? According to Jesus we are all the sent. Missionary activity is not the exclusive task of people who sell all their possessions and move overseas. All followers of Jesus are called to live as missionaries in their culture.
  2. Receive the Holy Spirit 20:22; Acts 2, all receive the Spirit
- v. **Spirit-empowered** disciple-making Acts 1-2 cf. Lk 24
  - a. Be my witnesses; Make Disciples...now wait
  - b. Spirit comes to empower the church...then boom! Tipping point of the Spirit through a diversely gifted people who overturn theological and cultural assumptions.

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<sup>1</sup> It is widely recognized that this verse and the latter portion of Mark's gospel (16:9-20) is absent from many extant Marcan manuscripts. However, we can not be certain that the ending is missing from the original text. If it was absent, our point concerning the "worldly gospel" of Mark still stands in that Mark repeatedly depicts Jesus as the Restorer of creation: driving out demons, healing the sick, resurrecting the dead, calming the sea.



- c. Discipleship is about personal, spiritual renewal that is shared with others.
    - d. Disciple: Spirit led follower Jesus
- vi. Standing Before Jesus
  - 1. Making disciples is a matter of Obedience
    - a. Start small with your kids or coworkers
    - b. Move deliberately and faithfully
  - 2. Your Life Counts if you are making disciples in the power of the Spirit.
    - a. No cause compares to the gospel agenda of God. Everything pales by comparison.
    - b. We can count on the gospel to make us positionally count before God, but to steward the gospel we must join its viral impulse to give away the riches of grace.
- vii. Joy of Discipleship
  - 1. Talk about who you are taken with.
  - 2. Holy Pride & Joy, watching kids grow.
    - a. Pride in what they've become (themselves)
    - b. Pride in what they've become (themselves in Christ)
  - 3. My hope isn't that I'm the most exemplary disciple but that Jesus is the most desirable person! Discipleship is giving Jesus away not your best practices, giving away the gospel not your good sayings.



**Q: Share stories of sharing the gospel with yourself out loud.**

**Q: What gets in the way?**

## **II. What is a Disciple?**

Q. What do you think it means to be *a disciple*?

### **a. What a Disciple is NOT**

- i. Raise your hand if you're a disciple
  1. I thought I wasn't sure either.
  2. Not optional, essential
- ii. Disciple is synonymous with Christian
  1. Acts 6:7 – disciples not converts
  2. Acts 11:26 (ESV): *And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians*
  3. Well, considering Jesus' original twelve, disciples are pretty far from perfect. There come in all sorts—blue collar (fishermen), white collar (businessmen), mobster (tax-collector). Conservative (zealot), Liberal (skeptic), and a traitor (Judas). A motley crew. *What they had in common, however, is that class, experience, and politics ceased to define them. Instead, what defined them most was Jesus. He reshaped them. God came to earth in Jesus to redefine us, to seek and save the blue collar, white collar, conservative and liberal. Jesus was sent, and so were his disciple*
- iii. Gospel given identity
  1. Peter Wagner, Church Growth, Discipleship is for post convert life, graduate Xty
  2. Acts 14:21: When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, = Disciples, how? gospel Identity
  3. 9:26 – Paul to identify with the disciples, how?
  4. Scripture, Discipleship is Xty; founded on the gospel, we don't graduate from convert to disciple any more than we graduate from the gospel to super Christian.

### **b. What a Disciple IS**



- i. *Disciple* – Spirit led follower of Jesus. Someone who learns the gospel, relates in the gospel, and communicates the gospel.
  1. Of Jesus not of me. Imitate me as Imitate Christ. Jesus is foundational for identity and Character
  2. Depends on the Master, Wilkins
    - a. Good Master, Disciple is Identity and work is role
    - b. Bad Master, Work is Identity and disciple is just a role
- ii. Matt 28:18-20
  1. **Rational/Learner – taught the gospel**
    - a. Socrates vs. Jesus
    - b. Teaching them all Jesus commanded
      - i. Breadth of the Redemptive Story (Gospels)
      - ii. Depth of Later Doctrinal Reflection (Epistles)
      - iii. We will look at both.
    - c. Christ-centered teaching
      - i. Storyteller and Point of Story (Lk 24:27)
      - ii. Repentance & Faith 24:46-7
  2. **Relational/Family – formed around the gospel of grace**
    - a. Baptized into the Family
      - i. Divine Family (Matt 28:19)
      - ii. Church Family (1 Cor. 12:13)
    - b. Jesus identified a New Family (Matt 12:48-49)
      - i. Invited men and women into his life
      - ii. Suffered and Triumphed with them
  3. **Missional/Missionary – sharing the gospel**
    - a. Going/Sent purpose (Matt 28:19)
      - i. Sent to “make disciples”
      - ii. Sent into the Harvest Lk 12
      - iii. Sent into all the earth Acts 1:8
    - b. Didn’t say go to Church, but go make disciples
    - c. Baptism isn’t just the beginning as a disciple of Jesus, it’s your Commission to make disciples of Jesus



- i. all nations
    - ii. body that grows 1 Cor 12:14
  - iii. Gospel centered: the wave
    - 1. Three Aspects of a Disciple
      - a. Rational: *Jesus is our Gospel Teaching*
      - b. Contra Theology heads. Don't teach to obey. Head gets bigger and bigger, heart gets smaller and smaller.
    - 2. Relational: *Jesus is our Goal of Baptizing*
      - a. Luke 9 & 10 Community Disciple-making
      - b. How would you apply this?
    - 3. Missional: *Jesus is the Ground of our Going*
      - a. If you don't know neighbors name, and share the name of Jesus with others you probably aren't on mission.
      - b. Sent in the authority of Christ, not the authority of my experience, wisdom, knowledge.
    - 4. Summary Definition: A disciple is someone who learns the gospel, relates in the gospel, and communicates the gospel.
- c. Examples
  - i. Self:
    - 1. **Know your sin.** Impatience and anger toward Ellie. Happens in mornings. Especially if I haven't spent time in prayer and I am coasting on my own power for life.
    - 2. **Fight your sin.** Why am I angry? I am being inconvenienced. I love a smooth morning more than I love my daughter. I need to be patient, merciful (because she does need correction, guidance and doesn't quite cooperate). I can't be what I don't see. If I see God as impatient with me. Why aren't you holier by now, then I will pass that onto my children. My view of God affects how I view others.
    - 3. **Trust your Savior.** Blessed are the merciful for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Share out loud.



### III. 3 Environments (draw triangle)

- a. **Informed/Classroom:** to equip disciples on the biblical why and practical how of disciple-making. In turn, this creates a culture of disciple-making that is deeply informed by the gospel and easily transferred.
  - i. Teaching all that Christ commanded
    - 1. Breadth of Redemptive Story (Know the Story)
    - 2. Depth of Doctrinal Reflection on that Story (Meaning of the Story)
  - ii. Knowing & Applying the Gospel
  
- b. **Integrated/Community** into everyday life, not adding lots of extra responsibility works discipleship into existing, natural structures (City Groups, Fight Clubs, Life).
  - i. Shared Life (1 Thess 2)
    - 1. Paul: suffering, teaching, living,
    - 2. Jesus: travel, eat, sleep, pray
    - 3. A shared life is the whole context of the Great Commission
      - a. Apprenticing
        - i. Knowledge based surgery vs. Practice based surgery. Need both!
        - ii. Learning to follow Jesus with knowledge and shared practice/life!
  
- c. **Intentional/City** by training people to deliberately focus their attention on particular disciples to deliberately spread the gospel of grace into others lives. *ILL: Choosing a Major*
  - i. If we leave one of these out, discipleship becomes a project (integrated), ineffective (intentional), or misguided (informed).
  - ii. Mentor-Based
    - 1. 1- A new Christian disciplined in community
    - 2. 1- A not-yet Christian disciplined in the city

*Q. Do you lean towards rational, relational, or missional discipleship? Why?*

*Q. How can you mature in the other aspects of being a disciple?*