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A large, clear lightbulb is the central focus. Inside the bulb, a lush green tree with a thick trunk and dense foliage stands on a patch of moss. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating a warm, glowing effect. The bulb is set against a white background, and its base is visible at the bottom.

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **PLUG-IN**
- **“Glocal” Missions**

United To Transform Cities WITH Christ

Are We Making Disciples Like *JESUS DID?*

By: Dennis Moore With Scott Rolff (Ministry Coaching, Multiplying Disciples)



We can only truly answer this question if we carefully examine the life of Jesus in the Gospels. As we've been doing WITH others for many years, we're humbled by the simplicity and intentionality of the way of life Jesus lived WITH others.

We've been asked to share with you some of what we've been learning together and how we've been living what we call the simplicity of a Jesus-like disciple making way of life WITH others. We'd all agree that Jesus was payment for our sins, but many have no idea that he also gave us a pattern for living our lives. That's where a chronological study of the Gospels and some disciple making friends like Dave & Rennie Garda and Dann Spader comes in, helping us along the way.

Our examination has revealed to us that Jesus' disciple making way of life was marked by simplicity and intentionality. His intentionality focused on relationships—being WITH others. We see time and time again how Jesus chose friendships over activity. In fact, there are more stories in the Gospels about Jesus being WITH the Twelve than with any other group of people. Why is that? We're learning that Jesus chose to train, equip and be friends WITH a few (The Twelve) so they could impact the many. We notice that this “follow and fish”

way of life WITH Jesus was a life lived WITH others, not alone. Mark shares in his Gospel that: 13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach. 15 and to have authority to drive out demons (Mark 3:13-15 NIV).

Jesus-like disciple making creates multiplication not addition. Luke shares in Acts that: 13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13 NIV). The disciple making genius of Jesus lies in his being WITH the Twelve and them being WITH Him.

Living the simplicity of a Jesus-like disciple making way of life WITH others is not easy but it is simple. Simple in that it's a life of helping others to help others love God, love people, and make disciple makers together. We see an often missed connection between Jesus commanding us to love God and love others (Greatest Commandment) and his command instructing us to be WITH others helping them to help others love God and love people (Great Co-mission).

Matthew shares in his Gospel (22:34-39): 34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: Matthew shares in his Gospel (22:34-39): 34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”



Matthew also shares in (28:16-20): 16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The “not easy” or difficulty in living this way of life is the dying to self part that Jesus spoke of often WITH His disciples. The transition from living a life of “me”

to living a life of “we” is necessary to make disciples Jesus' way.

So, what does living the simplicity of a Jesus-like disciple making way of life look like?

Well, it looks like leaning on the Holy Spirit for the power (we need the Spirit's help) to live in true mutual community WITH others. True mutual community (Matthew 4:19, 18:20; Acts 2:42-47) looks like cultivating friendships WITH a few others (Mark 3:14; John 3:22) where both inflow and overflow are shared—both giving and receiving help with loving God and loving people. These friendships help increase one another's passion for studying Scripture to know and love God (Matthew 22:36-38; Mark 12:30-31), prayerfulness about everything (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17), loving extravagantly (John 4:11-12, 19; 13:1) and living life as worship (Colossians 3:17, 23). This doesn't happen in a classroom; it happens in our family rooms and anywhere we are. Why? Because churches don't make disciples, Jesus-like disciple makers make disciples. The role of churches is to support and not hinder their people from living this way.

If you'd like to experience Jesus-like disciple making, come and be WITH us in one of our weekly Disciple making Learning Communities. Or a monthly Leadership Learning Community. Or, we invite you to be WITH us at our next “Disciple making is Relationships” learning experience right here in Lansing on September 19, where you can be trained and equipped to begin the journey of Jesus-like disciple makers WITH a few of your friends.

We leave you with this:

“The fullest expression of spiritual leadership is living the simplicity of a Jesus-like disciple making way of life.” – Bill Allison

* We've used two resources to help us study Jesus' life: **The Harmony of the Gospels** and **The Merged Gospels**.