

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 2 - Disciple-Making: There is No Plan B

I have not made this stuff up about making disciples who make disciples. Jesus, the Son of God, gave a command to go make disciples in Matthew 28. He said, “Go therefore and make disciples,” and it was the imperative in the Greek, which means it's a command. The apostle Paul backed it up when he said, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit to faithful men (and women) who will be able to teach others also.” There’s this ongoing, exponential, reproductive impact that God intends us to have.

So, is there another plan? Some people might be saying “Well, is this something new? We've not heard of this.” No! It's been in the book for over 2,000 years. The problem is, we've just not done what Jesus said to do.

There is a legend which tells of how Jesus went back to heaven after his time on earth. Even in heaven, he bore upon himself the marks of the suffering and the cross. The angels were talking to him, and Gabriel said, “Well Master, you must have suffered terribly for men down there.”

“I did,” Jesus said, and Gabriel asked, “Do they all know about how you love them and what you did for them?”

“Oh no,” said Jesus. “Not yet. Just now only a few people in Palestine know.”

“What have you done,” said Gabriel “to let everyone know about it?”

Jesus said, “I have asked Peter and James and John and a few others to make it the business of their lives to tell others about me, and others still, and others, and yet others, until the farthest man or woman on the widest circle knows what I've done.”

Gabriel looked very doubtful, for he knew well what poor stuff men and women were made of. “Yes,” he said, “but what if Peter and James and John grow tired? What if the

people who come after them forget? What if way down in the 21st century people just don't tell others about you? Haven't you made any other plans?"

And Jesus answered, "I haven't made any other plans. I'm counting on them."

You think about that.

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