

# DISCIPLE MAKING

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A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

## Episode 16b/17: Models of Disciple-Making – Part 2

Now, the last episode I had a good buddy, John Gillespie, and he shared a few great thoughts on disciple making. Today I'm going to have another buddy with me, Michael Santiago. Michael has worked with Fellowship of Christian Athletes – FCA, for over 14 years, as of 2017. He's got a wonderful wife, two great boys, and they just got back from Disney, having a blast there. But we're talking about disciple making and I want to review again the passage in Matthew 28 where Jesus says in verse 19, therefore, go and make disciples of all nations. I like to always translate that. **Go and keep on going.** Make disciples who make disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples. And so that is meant for all believers of all time. It's not a gift for a select few. So, and then there's another passage I didn't read last time, and it comes from 2 Timothy 2:2 where Paul says to Timothy, "You then my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you've heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust..." And the word entrust, by the way, is a banking term, which means make a deposit in trust. So, make a deposit "...to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

So Michael, I just want to ask you a couple questions today and get you to respond, but the first little question I thought of was, What does disciple making mean to you? There's a lot of confusion out there – about what that means.

MS: Succinctly? Walking in a relationship with Jesus, reading and knowing his life. How did he handle life scenarios? And then in imparting that to other people, other men who say, Hey, I want to walk the way Jesus walked. I need someone to teach me. So disciple making is a guy saying, I want to be discipled, and then I'm willing to help disciple others.

JT: And that's the key. And that's, like we said last week, that reproductive part is the part that I see in churches and the ministries around the country, Michael, that are really missing the reproductive part. I'm getting you ready to do this with somebody else. You're getting them ready to do it with somebody else. You're starting over with somebody new. Another question. How did you prepare for this whole task of disciple making?

MS: I had to be one very intentional. We're city guys -- And many of you listening to this are city guys. It's easy for our schedule to overwhelm us. So making time to make disciples and to be discipled, that's priority one, right? You gotta start there.

JT: It's interesting when I go to churches around the country and train people that often what I'll do is ask them about all the activities they do in their churches. Out of many activities, some even having 50 or 60 events, programs, projects, etc. that they do, none are specific to disciple making. So I'll ask, where's disciple making? And it might be in there somewhere, but my belief is that biblically speaking, disciple making should be the overarching strategy of the ministry. And yet you very seldom find that in churches in America. So, how are you personally now implementing this whole thing of disciple making?

MS: Great question. So, I always gotta start with me. Making sure and being intentional about surrounding myself with godly men who are walking with Jesus to disciple me. And I continue to learn this even after extended time in ministry. If I'm pursuing men a God to disciple me, it empowers and it equips me to better serve the men I'm trying to reach. I've got something to offer because I've taken time to receive what God is speaking to me through godly men.

JT: And I think that to me points out a critical characteristic of a person that wants to make disciples is you've got to be willing to be teachable. And a lot of times that's a struggle for a lot of men and women to be teachable and humble enough to let others build into your life and to learn from others. My final question would be what would you say to challenge our viewers in terms of their involvement in disciple making?

MS: Absolutely. So, I would say number one, and you've referenced this already, be teachable. So that you can go on and be available. Availability is a big deal as we've already referenced. I think the third piece is to be strategic in saying, "*Hey, you know what, it's not on the other guy to make disciples, man, it's on me!*" Whether your role is in business, at home, in your neighborhood, on your street... Jesus made it real clear. He didn't say that other guy or this guy, he said **us**. You and me. The point is to be very much on mission.

JT: Yeah. Often what I think is when you point your finger at somebody else, saying "You ought to do it!" There are actually three fingers pointing back at me. Well, how about that?

You think about that.

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