

4Cs NATIONAL VISION
(Part Five)
"Making Disciples"

Adapted from David Schrader in *Leadership Connection* September '11.

Text: John 1.35 - 46 (in pew Bible p. 1050 / in large print Bible p. 1633).

Intro: -4Cs national vision is Christ's mandate for all believers.

- Part Four = God is **pleased** through the "foolishness" of proclaiming and preaching Jesus Christ to inform the world about his plan of salvation.
- Part Five = after proclaiming Jesus Christ, making disciples is our number one priority.
 - making disciples term is used over 270 times in the New Testament.

-today's text presents a poignant picture of Christ's invitation to John and Andrew to follow him as his devotees / disciples (v. v. 38, 39).

- up-shot = Andrew, a disciple, becoming a discipler of Simon (v. v. 40 - 42).
 - Jesus, the Master, discipled Philip, who in turn discipled Nathaniel (v. v. 43 - 46).
- **illust.** John Wesley.

-David Schrader insists that there is a pressing need to make disciples.

- not called to have people make decisions but called to make disciples.
- "too often the Christian life could be described as an initial spasm followed by a lifetime of chronic inertia. This path of chronic inertia becomes the road most travelled by many in our churches today. The road, however, to genuine discipleship is one of action and commitment and is far different in terms of expectation and outcome."

Take Home Point:

-let us engage people in a journey toward spiritual growth and discipline.

- the journey involves three crucial parts:
 - **process** of making a disciple, **evidence** of becoming a disciple, and **fruit** of being a disciple.

1. PROCESS OF MAKING A DISCIPLE

-as we heard last week – without doubt the church is called to:

- PROCLAIM salvation in Christ.
- **There is no other name under heaven or earth that can save** (Acts 4:12).

-in Matthew 28.19 we are told to

- go and make disciples of all nations.
- baptize them in the name of the trinity.
- and TEACH them everything Christ has commanded us.

-so our commitment to disciple does not end when people make a commitment to accept Christ as their Saviour.

-Bill Hull of Vision 2000 Training Network presents us with a four-step disciple making process:

1. "COME AND SEE" = invitation to explore Christianity and to commit one's life to Christ.
2. "COME AND FOLLOW ME" = invitation to become grounded in the Christian faith.
3. "COME AND BE WITH ME" = invitation to learn to minister through mentoring.
4. "REMAIN IN ME" = goal that all who we disciple will be devoted to a lifetime of service for Christ.

-in today's text we see these 4 points at work:

- John the Baptist told two of his disciples to "see the Lamb of God" (v. 36).
- John's disciples came to Jesus and followed him (v. 37).
- John's disciples, Andrew and John, asked to stay and learn from Jesus (v. 38).
- Jesus told Andrew and John to remain with Him (v. 39).
- Andrew switched from being a disciple to become a "discippler" – *he invited his brother Peter to come to Christ and to become Christ's disciple* (v. v. 40 – 42).

-points 2, 3, and 4 describe the natural process for those who accept Christ.

- process leads to discipleship.
- church must engage people in a journey toward spiritual maturity and discipline.
 - requires human / personal contact.
 - requires a specific plan because discipleship is central – not optional.
 - it takes a community to raise a child & it takes a church family to disciple one another.

-Bill Hull's 4-step-process helps us to measure whether or not L.A.C.C. is stepping up to the plate.

- here are some touch-stone questions:
 - what will maturity look like in the disciples we produce?
 - how will we know if people are becoming serious disciples?
 - what does a disciple look like when they are "fully trained"?

2. EVIDENCE OF BECOMING A DISCIPLE

-if our discipleship efforts are producing biblical results and if we are becoming a healthy church, then the following growth areas will be evidenced in people's lives:

- knowledge, faith, & character.

-Knowledge:

- a fully trained disciple has factual & experiential spiritual knowledge.
 - experiential = daily walk with God in the world.
 - factual = daily walk with God in His Word, screening our experiences.
- factual is unintelligible without the experiential.
 - together they grow faith.
- question for us = how do we impart factual knowledge and facilitate experiential knowledge?
 - @ L.A.C.C.: Church calendar for services, Bagel Bible Study, Sunday School & V.B.S., Alpha, Lent Study, Communion & confession, Music in worship service, Membership classes.
 - **need** men's Bible study & New Comer's class.

-Faith:

- certainty that invisible spiritual realities are true.
 - **“assurance of things hoped for”** (Hebrews 11.1).
- conviction of sin and genuine repentance.
 - see our own sin and understand how much God hates it.
 - relying completely on Christ as one's all-sufficient Savior and Provider.
- reception of spiritual guidance.
 - truly believe there is a spiritual realm around us.
 - trust that God will be faithful to His promises.
 - learn to rely on Christ for everything = *follow the leading of the Spirit*.
- question for us = how do we cultivate faith in God?
 - @ L.A.C.C.: goal of passionate spirituality, Prayer time, Prayer Chain, Prayer slips, personal prayer, tithes & offerings.
 - **bottom line** = prayer life & personal use of Bible.

-Character:

- a disciple's character will be governed by their:
 - **affections** - what they love, hate, and seek.
 - **thoughts** - what they are guided by.
 - **will** - what they choose and what they reject.

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him (Colossians 3.5-10).

3. FRUIT OF BEING A DISCIPLE

-in today's text we see that Andrew bore the fruit of being a disciple:

- Andrew switched from being a disciple to become a “discipler” – *he invited his brother Peter to come to Christ and to become Christ's disciple* (v. v. 40 – 42).
- expectation is that the process should come full circle.
 - disciples need to mentor others to become disciples.

-in order to mentor others, remember that there is an expectation placed upon all of us regarding how we live and act.

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God (Ephesians 4:1).

-a fully trained disciple is marked by habitual obedience and action to:

- purity in character and deeds.
- work hard in the things we are called to do.
 - pleasure, sexuality, speech, relationships, worship, spiritual disciplines, ministry, mission, stewardship and work.
- begin learning how to disciple others with baby steps of service:
 - coffee time host / greeter & usher / Reading Buddies / Bible reader.
- continue learning how to disciple others with advancing steps of service:
 - Children's story time / helper in Sunday School / serving communion / sound technician / Serving Board.

-always strive, with God's love and power, to disciple others in your circle of friends and colleagues by your life-style, words, and actions.

Conclusion:

-let us engage people in a journey toward spiritual growth and discipline.

- the journey involves three crucial parts:
 - process of making a disciple, evidence of becoming a disciple, and fruit of being a disciple.

-persevere with passion – just as Philip did with skeptical Nathanael (v. v. 43 – 46).

- come and see!
 - proclaim the claims of Christ.
 - stand back and see Christ make good on His claims.
- no impact without contact – need 6 different contacts in first 6 months.

-**Closing Hymn:** #309 Pass It On (all verses).

John Wesley

When John Wesley proclaimed Jesus Christ in the 1700's, it wasn't long before his ministry experienced the conversion of many people coming to Jesus Christ. Wesley understood the tremendous importance of believers moving beyond their conversion to sanctification, or if you will—spiritual growth through discipleship.

Wesley knew how to organize converts for discipleship. At the heart of the Methodist system was small groups. These were serious groups that met for the purpose of accountability and spiritual growth. However, in many of today's churches, small groups end up often being nothing more than feel-good fellowship without any discipline.

Wesley's small group, or "class meeting," entailed a dozen or so people meeting in their neighborhood. Classes normally met one evening each week for about an hour. Each person received instruction, reported on his or her spiritual progress or on any needs or problems, and received the support and prayers of the others.

Wesley taught spiritually vibrant lay people how to do soul care, with the result of multitudes in England being brought to a place where they were able to demonstrate clear signs of the grace of God.