

## **Chat Rick Thursday 6/24**

From Me to Everyone: 02:40 PM

Andy.Bowen@wgm.org

Questions for Dan ...send to Andy as well as questions for Deidre and Rick.

Actually, if you have any question...send it on...Andy is wise! :-)

From Christine to Everyone: 02:41 PM

yes, indeed...Andy is wise :-)

if Andy doesn't know how to say it, probably no one does...

From Jeff to Everyone: 02:42 PM

So true.

From Chrissy (Greenwell) Charles to Everyone: 02:42 PM

Letonia = Látvia (Google is my friend)

From Christine to Everyone: 02:42 PM

Thanks, Chrissy!

From Me to Everyone: 02:55 PM

Discipleship--the priority of our calling

A spontaneous expansion of the church--disciples who make disciples as a genuine move of the Spirit is heart cry

Role of leaders is to equip ordinary people to become disciples and become disciple makers.

Disciple--following Jesus.

Disciple maker--equipping others to follow Jesus.

Churches with an expiration date

Instead of developing programs and meeting, put focus on people and relationships.

Develop and maintain relationship and then God spread the movement and it grew.

How do we widen the circle so that discipleship becomes the priority of the people not just missionaries and pastors.

Being a Christian = a follower of Jesus

What is it about following Jesus that you can't follow Him in the real world?

Disconnect between Rabbi Jesus of Nazareth and the way we live.

Apprentice of Jesus in our neighborhood, workplace, play...is Jesus just an idea, a meme...

We know what it means to study the Bible but are we an apprentice of Jesus?

Possible to become a Christian but not become an authentic disciple of Jesus.

Yet...

The Christian movement grew significantly large and registered on the power players of the political world as well as the geographic world. Very diverse--ethnicities, languages, religious differences. Christianity multiplied among unreached people groups during Roman Empire faster than any other time.

Without mission strategies or organizations.

Spontaneous expansion of the church. Church Fathers didn't talk about church growth, mission strategy or evangelism.

From Billy Coppedge to Everyone: 02:58 PM

Patient Ferment of the Early Church -

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/the-patient-ferment-of-the-early-church/339350>

How did church grow?

Through relationships and migration.

The church was attractational--the lives of the Jesus' followers created curiosity and interest in Jesus.

Shifting focus from programs to people. Not maintaining meetings but relationships.

How do you start a movement with people with whom the gospel spreads naturally?

1. Message

Disciple multiplication begins with message not methodology.

Jesus began His own ministry Mark 1:14-15 with a message--the good news of the Kingdom of God, repent, believe in the Good News.

Gospel of the Kingdom is really the Gospel of the King. Focused on Jesus!

Gospel preached by the apostles in Acts: not once did apostles talk about heaven or hell.

Not once did they compare faith with works.

Not once did they explain how the cross works to take away our sin.

Never how will I know I will go to Heaven when I die rather, now that Heaven has sent its Son to earth, how will I respond.

Who is the Messiah and what is His authority?

Gospel is not process for getting to Heaven.

We've traded the gospel of the Kingdom for all these plans of salvation, and this is determining the disciples we're making.

From Me to Everyone: 03:10 PM

Abbreviated gospel who takes focus off Jesus who saves us and puts it on the process of salvation not the Saviour.

Can we explain the gospel of King Jesus simply?

Bridge illustration--Humans Sin God(heaven) with the Cross and Jesus bridging the gap.

Humans separated from God's Kingdom and Jesus has come to bring us into the Kingdom of God where He reigns.

Then you can explain how to LIVE in the Kingdom--our needs: to be rescued and ruled and Jesus meets both.

Reverse illustration--Jesus comes into our world and how do we respond to King Jesus and His grace and reign in the world?

Jesus spent 3 years revealing Himself. Who do you say that I am?

Paul changed his allegiance not religion. He saw the resurrected Jesus!

WHO IS JESUS?

The Son of the Father who is well pleased with Him.

Devil questions his identity? Are you the son of God?

Joseph's son?

even the demons knew He was the Son of God!

Discipleship begins with a message not a method.

We're not building a Christian industry or world, but we want to be about the Kingdom of God.

From Me to Everyone: 03:16 PM

## 2. A person changed by the message

Who we are becoming will impact disciple making more than what we are doing? Focus on becoming the one God can use.

God uses ordinary men and women who are being transformed into His likeness.

Necessary--faith, Needed--united with Christ and set on fire.

Are you satisfied with the person you are becoming?

The more like Jesus you become, the more likely you are to see discipleship multiplication.

## 3. Relationships with ones who need to hear the message

Vast majority of Muslims who came to Christ were through relationships. Primary way the gospel spreads.

People come to Jesus not usually through church programs but through relationships with ones who know Jesus.

Discipleship belongs to ordinary people.

How do we equip them so that it becomes natural?

Suggestions:

Become fluent in the gospel of the Kingdom.

Develop a plan for your own growth in Christ likeness!

Make a list of names God's brought into your life. Pray for them. Narrow it down to be deliberate with ones you can begin discipling.

From Me to Everyone: 03:17 PM

Don't include family.

Don't include enemies.

Don't include believers.

Unbelievers who are left, focus on them.

Get out there and spend time with people who don't know Jesus!!

Live and minister in such a way that discipleship becomes natural and being a disciple=being a Christian!