

Discipleship – The Priority of Our Calling
Rick Dugan, Impact 2021

Ephesians 4.11-12 - ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Discipleship – learning to follow Jesus

Disciple making – accompanying someone who is learning to follow Jesus

Church – following Jesus together

Dugan was planting churches with an expiration date. When they put their focus on developing people and maintaining relationships, the network spread, and they saw the discipleship movement grow.

Themes

- How do we widen the circle so that discipleship becomes the priority of the body of Christ?
- Discipleship is to be owned by ordinary people.
- Being a Christian must be synonymous with being a disciple of Jesus.

Problem in Christendom

Many Christians have a disconnect between Jesus and the way they live. They don't really know what it means to be an apprentice of Jesus. That is for the religious professionals. They see Jesus as Savior and even Lord, but not as Teacher.

The Early Church Fathers never wrote about mission strategy or evangelism.

Christianity primarily grew through relationships and migration.

Christianity was attractive. Not the programs but the lives of the Jesus followers.

Dugan and organizational shift

Made a conscious shift from programs to people, from meetings to maintaining relationships.

How to start a movement of people through whom the Gospel spreads naturally.

1. Message – The Gospel of the Kingdom was the Gospel of the King.
 - a. Answered the question – Now that heaven has sent the Son to earth, how will I respond? The answer to that question is the Gospel.
 - b. There has been a shift from: Who is the Messiah and what is his authority, to How do I get to heaven?
 - c. Jesus spent his time on earth revealing who he was. Identity of Messiah.
2. People who are changed by the message
 - a. Who we are becoming will impact disciple making more than what we are doing.
 - b. For disciple multiplication we need men and women who are united to Christ and set on fire.

- c. The more like Jesus you become, the more likely you will see disciple multiplication begin to happen.
- 3. Maintain relationships with people who need to hear the message.
 - a. The gospel flows primarily through relationships.
 - b. You already have relationships.
 - c. Discipleship belongs to ordinary people. The question is, How do we equip them? (How does this become natural?)

Conclusion

1. Become fluent in the Gospel of King Jesus and practice it.
2. Develop a plan for your growth in Christlikeness.
3. Make a list people the Lord has brought into your life.
 - a. Eliminate family, enemies, and believers from the list.
 - b. Be deliberate in beginning relationships with people who don't know Jesus.