

LESSON 13 Devotional

Engaged Disciples

Jesus knew clearly, and stated, that His mission on earth was to seek and save the lost. Many with that mission might have taken a limited finite approach, assuming that the task was up to them personally, working tirelessly, meeting one on one with people sharing the good news of the Gospel.

Jesus, however, had an eternal view and a desire to ultimately reach billions rather than hundreds. This would take a multiplication approach, not one of addition. He handpicked twelve unlikely suspects to be His disciples then He began modeling and teaching them on how to build an evangelistic ministry. After they had seen Jesus in action for some time, and Jesus felt they were ready, it was time for on the job training.

Please read Matthew 10:1-15:

"Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹"Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— ¹⁰no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹²As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town."

Jesus' twelve disciples were volunteers, yet they were deeply committed and engaged in the work Jesus was calling them to accomplish. This extensive on the job training, laid the groundwork for when Jesus left these same men to build the infrastructure for the Church that has grown and flourished to this day. Look closely at this passage for the reasons Jesus' ministry was successful far beyond His departure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In verse 1, in what ways did Jesus empower His disciples for the job at hand? How would that empowerment have impacted the level of engagement in the mission of His disciples?

2. Some pastors are hesitant to allow lay people to teach from their pulpit because they don't trust their teaching ability or theology, yet Jesus sent these disciples out on their own to share His mission from town to town. What level of trust do you think that took on Jesus' part? How might that trust have impacted the disciples' level of engagement?

3. In what ways did Jesus prepare His disciples for this adventure of going out and doing ministry on their own?

a. How do you believe the disciples might have felt about being given such a challenging assignment?

b. How might that have increased their level of engagement?

4. As you read this passage, what actions did Jesus take to more deeply engage His disciples in His cause that may be helpful to you in engaging your employees in a deeper way?
