**Intro to Discipleship**

Who is this? (Gandalf & Frodo, Yoda & Luke, Harry & Dumbledorf)

* What do all these relationships have in common?
* Why in the big story are these relationships important? What at stake? If Yoda doesn’t invest in skywalker what’s at stake.

There’s a torch passed, there’s a larger story, these relationships are critical for good to triumph.

We intuitively know that we cannot be the man/woman we want to be without the help of others. Just like the stories in these movies, the story if the Bible portrays even greater reason to engage in discipleship. Join me as we look at the stakes in Acts 1.

Most of our material is from Roger Hershey; a staff member of Cru who’s known around the country as a guru on all things Discipleship. I’d strongly encourage you to check out his material on cru.org.

Purpose of Discipleship: To help others grow to become more mature followers of Christ.

So where are we in relation to discipleship; what’s at stake within the story what we are caught up in, the real story of all stories…

In other words; what’s our context? Without Context we lose meaning; we get myopic with our enterprise.

Context for Discipleship (The Bookends of Acts 1)

* The Church receives her marching orders: verse 8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth.”
* This is the 1st Book End, the ushering in of the “Church Age”
* This is the answer to the “Now What?”

Now lets look at verse 10: Read…

* Here we have the other bookend, it’s going to end…
* There will be a day when EV and D-ship ends
  + There will be a day when d-ship ends.
  + “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:27-28
  + These are our circumstances; our state of affairs.
  + You should be drawing out an element of urgency as well from the biblical context of discipleship.

But why else do Discipleship (So what?)

**1. Because it’s Biblical**

In Matthew 28:18-20, we are commanded to make disciples. Jesus said “go into the world and make disciples”. He didn’t say “go into the world and make fellowship groups,” “go into the world and have parties,” or “go into the world and make campus Christian clubs.” He said “go into the world and make disciples’. That is the Great Commission. That’s why we’re serious about it. It’s what Jesus told us to do.

**2. Because Jesus Did it**

Study the Gospels and you will see that while Christ ministered for three years to masses of people, He primarily spent his time with twelve men into whom He poured His whole life. He took them everywhere He went, taught them, trained them, and invested His life into them. They caught the life of Christ by spending time with Him; Christ was strategic with how He lived His life.

Jesus ushered in a spiritual kingdom that has lasted more than two thousand years because he invested his life in twelve men. Robert Coleman’s book The Master Plan of Evangelism is a study of the life of Christ and how He took those twelve men and discipled them. If we are going to give our lives to others, Jesus’ strategy is probably the best strategy.

There are a lot of ways that people grow and are developed, both in church and on campus. On campus, we have weekly Cru meetings, retreats, Bible studies, parties, worship times, and fellowship. We create an environment where people can engage in our vision and grow through large-group teaching and fellowship.

But the heart of discipleship exists within small groups of believers who are building into each other’s lives at a deeper level – being held accountable to someone who is moving more deeply into their lives to help them work out what they’re learning. As James says, we want people not only to be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word. Doing of the Word most often works itself out in the context of discipleship relationships.

**3. Because the Benefits are Far-Reaching**

The third reason we disciple is because of the far-reaching benefits of discipleship to our local movement, local church, and the body of believers around the world.

**Benefit #1 – Healthy Community**

* Greater depth and heart to heart interaction in small grps vs large meetings.

**Benefit #2 – Movement Growth**

* Leaders replicate leaders
* Jesus went from 12, to 70 (sent ou the 72), then 120 in upper room; then 3000 believed.
* More growth means being able to minister to more people

**Benefit #3 – Movement Longevity**

(Video of Spiritual Multiplication)

Two thousand years after Jesus poured His life into the original 12 disciples, millions of people all over the world have been changed by the Gospel message. For us, movement longevity means that in 20 years, this campus will have a thriving, flourishing body of believers because of the investment made by our current leaders.

Distinguish between Converts and Disciples…

**(TRANSITION)**

**When we talk about discipleship, what is it we hope to produce? What does a mature biblical disciple look like?**

Principles for Discipleship

Principle #1

Earlier I mentioned how discipleship involves replication. The disciples “caught” what Jesus was about, disciplers replicate as they invest their lives into others on campus seeing a new crop of student leaders ready to carry on the torch.

In Philippians 4:9, Paul says, “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me-practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

This is a weighty verse precisely because of the replicating effect of discipleship. Paul here is saying not just your knowledge actions but the very things that have captivated your heart are going to be replicated. At the very least, this should give us pause before entering into a discipleship relationship with someone.

--Enter Derick—

Principle #2

You cannot give what you do not possess. (Latin Axiom)

In other words, who’s really in your life as a mentor; pursuing graciously while taking you to the word and helping you apply it to your life. Who’s unconditionally committed to you modeling grace and truth? If no one is modeling this well in your own life you going to be severely limited in your ability to do this in someone else’s. Again, you can’t give what you don’t possess. Do you have a mentor; a true disciple in your life?