

Jesus: Master Disciplemaker

Without a doubt, Jesus was the most effective disciplemaker who ever lived. But let's be honest, this kind of knowledge about Christ isn't always encouraging. We read the scriptures, we see how effective He was, we see the impact that He and his disciples had on their world and then we ask, *Lord, what's wrong with me? I can't even get my students to show up consistently, much less be world changers! What am I doing wrong?*

Of course, He was the Son of God. That must account for something. After all, look at what He was capable of...

He knew the future (Luke 21:5–38). Because He was the Son of God, He knew things about the future of the church, the world and of individuals that the rest of us cannot know.

He could read minds (Luke 11:14–28). Jesus could read people's thoughts and intents better than they themselves could. He knew what motivated individuals and crowds, what moved them, what perplexed them, what stimulated them. He had a direct line of sight into the soul of every human being.

He controlled the moment (Luke 22:31–34). With Christ, there was no 12-step program to becoming a mature believer. He worked with the moment, arranging it for His advantage. Peter needed to hear the cock crow. Thomas needed to feel the wounds. Saul needed to be humbled by the Divinity of Christ. Jesus knew the "next step" in growth for each individual and provided the disciples with customized opportunities.

So, where does that leave us? Actually, it leaves us in a really good position. Listen to the words of Jesus Himself:

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12, NIV).

So...

If he knew the future, you can at least "begin with the end in mind." Don't allow the enemy to leave you shortsighted. God has given you many tools that provide a glimpse into the future, not the least of which is His word. As a mere mortal, learn to read the signs He has placed around you. Watch the news. Read culture info. Get "out there" and be a detective. And as a child of God filled with the Spirit of God (the One who enables you to do these "greater things"), learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit for supernatural insight in keeping with God's word.

If he could read minds, you can at least understand the people around you. Despite their obvious weaknesses, disciplines such as psychology, sociology and others can be a veritable goldmine of information in helping us understand and relate to one another. Now combine these "human" resources with the Holy Spirit's help (i.e., a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, discernment and more). Technically speaking, you may not be reading people's minds, but you'll be surprised at how many people wonder if you are! And that kind of insight and understanding can open up a lot of heart-doors that are closed to others who aren't trying to understand.

If he controlled the moment, you can at least provide innovative and customized solutions for others. The modern church is so program-driven that we have forgotten how to relate to people on an individual level. Discipleship cannot be reduced to a program. Discipleship is—at its very core—relational. It is life-to-life, heart-to-heart. It is perfectly acceptable to take advantage of the resources available: books, articles, curriculum, etc. But this cannot be a replacement for the Spirit-inspired innovation that comes from truly knowing our students and seizing teachable moments in their lives.

Being a "master disciplemaker" is really within the grasp of all God's children. Disciplemaking is not a gift, it's a command...one that all Christians must obey. Realizing some of the advantages of Christ is only the first step. Now it's up to you to seek God for similar and even greater advantages in your own life.

Go...make disciples!