

K.T NORRIS LECTURESHIP – DAY ONE – MAY 9, 2023

MATTHEW 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears,^[a] let him hear."

MATTHEW 13:18-23

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.^[b] ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

EPHESIANS 3:7-12

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in^[b] God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

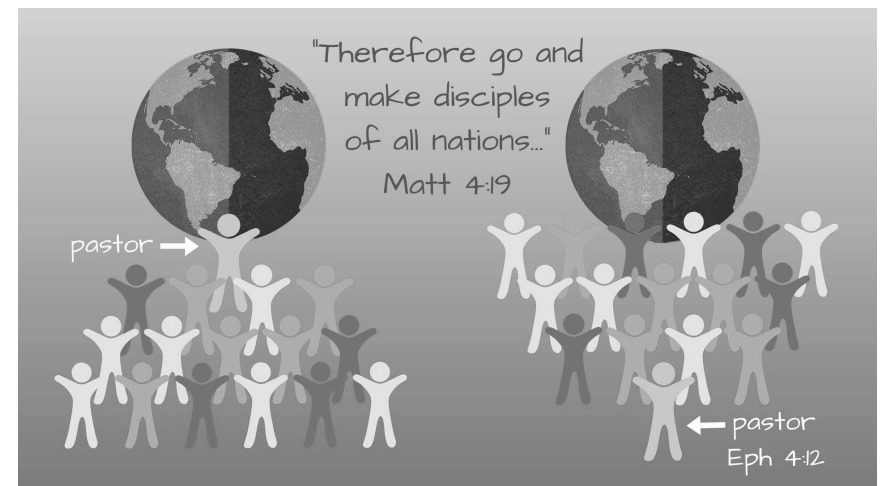
1. What stands out to you in the passages we read today?

2. How would you define "church?"

3. How would you define "disciple?"

4. Do you feel like the church in Western Christianity is winning or losing? Explain.

5. What do you think the Western Church needs to change to be more effective?



FOUR MODULES FOR DISCIPLE-MAKING:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BIBLICAL FOUNDATION</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REPRODUCIBLE PROCESS</u></p>

ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

Start with HEAD questions

These are the “what” questions. What happened first? What came next? These questions are often covered in the process of rebuilding the story. It helps get the story into their heads and clarifies the details so that everyone can participate in the discussion.

Use HEART questions next

These are questions that get the group thinking about what the story means and gets the story into their heart. Let group members struggle with the meaning of the story without your interpretation. Ask open ended questions. Examples of questions that get inside the story and help uncover it’s meaning are:

- What does this story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- Was there anything in this story that was new to you?
- What do you like about this story? What don’t you like about this story?

Resist the urge to teach or explain! Keep asking questions! If someone has a question about the story ask what they think the answer is or pose the question to the group. Ask if there is another story in the Bible that could help answer the question.

Follow with HANDS questions

These are the “how” questions that help group members apply the story to their lives. Jesus was always seeking deeper things and we should also. He told stories meant to transform people’s lives. These questions should get the group thinking about what they need to do differently in their lives because of their experience with this story.

- How are you similar/different to the character in the story?
- How do you need to change to be more obedient like the character in this story?