

## The Method Of Jesus' Discipleship Training

Mark's Gospel ch 1-16 (Reading 3:14a, 3:16,17, 3:31-35, 4:21-25)

Key Verse 3:14a

"He appointed the Twelve-designating them apostles--that they might be with him."

Why do we care about the "how" of Jesus' discipleship training?  
Jesus has set the timeless patterns of disciple making ministry.  
Jesus presented the best model of disciple making ministry.  
We all know that we must learn from Jesus.

But we have problems:

"If Jesus could do so much in just 3 ½ years, why can't I even raise one person after 10 years?"

"Maybe I'm supposed to be like Noah who only had his 8 family members. Maybe I'm destined to deliver message to my family members only."

"Many people talk about how fruitful they are, but I don't know where to start and how to go about it."

Let's search together for principles *relevant* and *practical* to our ministries today.

Let's discover a sense of *hope* that disciple-making is possible here in America and Canada.

Let's learn *how*.

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus had a clear vision and purpose for calling his disciples. He trained his disciples based on this vision and purpose. Jesus had an overall picture for his disciple-making ministry, so he could train his disciples properly.

Let me ask you one question.  
Do you have an overall picture for disciple-making? Let's talk about it briefly.

<slide: A Framework of Jesus' Disciple Making Ministry>

Jesus' disciple making can be summarized into three parts: the purpose of his calling, the contents of his teaching, and the method of his disciple making.

- **First, Why.**
  - **'Why' is the basic purpose and mission of disciple-making.**
  - **We must have a very clear purpose of disciple making.**
- **Second, What.**
  - **'What' is the contents of disciple making.**
  - **Based on his purpose, Jesus taught them.**
- **Third, How.**
  - **'How' is the method and process of disciple making.**
  - **Based on the purpose and the contents, Jesus used specific methods in raising disciples.**

<slide: The Contents of Jesus' Disciple-Making Ministry>

**First, Purpose.** Chapters 1-3 shows what kind of people Jesus called to be his disciples and with what purpose he called them.

The purpose of His calling was three-fold.

First, Jesus wanted them to be with him because he wanted them to learn from him in their practical lives.

Second, Jesus called them to be sent out to preach. They save people from the sea of sin and death by preaching the word of God. The third purpose of His calling was to give them authority to drive out evil spirits so that they could free those held captive by evil forces.

**Second, The Content of His Teaching.** In chapters 4-16, we can learn the content of Jesus' teaching for his disciples.

The curriculum of Jesus' discipleship training consists of 4 quarters: Chapters 4-8, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16.

Jesus focused on establishing a love relationship with his disciples in the early stage of his ministry.

During the first quarter (4:1-8:26), Jesus trained his disciples to have three basic attitudes based on a love relationship with him.

First, the right attitude toward the word of God, second, toward him, and third, toward the crowd.

During the second quarter (8:27-10:45), Jesus taught them faith in the gospel and a gospel-centered lifestyle based on their confession of faith.

During the third quarter (11:1-13:36), Jesus taught them that he is the Lord of all things.

During the last quarter (14:1-16:20), Jesus planted faith in the gospel based on his death and resurrection and he gave them the world mission command.

Jesus trained his disciples so that they may love the cross of Jesus, learn resurrection faith and carry out the world mission command with resurrection faith.

It is necessary to train disciples step by step. If we try to teach them directly the third or fourth quarter without establishing the basic attitudes based on the love relationship of the first quarter, they will easily fall. As Jesus did, we must raise disciples step by step, with great patience.

**Third, Method.** As we read chapters 1-16, we can think about the method Jesus used to raise disciples.

In making disciples, the method is just as important as the content.

It is like cooking: even if the ingredients are good, unless we cook in a right way the food does not taste good.

Many people try to learn technique, but they don't realize the importance of spirit.

When we listen to music or see paintings, the spirit of artists is hidden behind the work.

For example, when we see Michelangelo's work we are amazed at the power of his faith. When we see 'Pieta', we find that he worked with such dedication that it looks as though the real Mary is holding the real Jesus. In his work of art, his spirit, his burning love and his faith are interwoven.

When we hear Bach's or Beethoven's music, we can feel their spirit. However, if we only learn the technique of these artists, we cannot truly grow as great artists.

Likewise, when we want to be disciple makers, we should learn Jesus' spirit more than his technique.

Discipleship training is a complex art of raising up spiritual leaders. We need God's wisdom and his spirit.

So let's get rid of our shallow business mentality and learn the wisdom and spirit of Jesus so that we may grow to be outstanding disciple-makers in our generation.

Jesus' disciple making method can be divided into five parts: common life, Bible study, history education, field training and key member training.

<slide: **The "How" (methods) of Jesus' Disciple Making Ministry**>

- Life together is the first element, and basis of DMM.
- Bible Study is the second element, and also a basis for DMM.
- Sense of History: In the last part of the first quarter, Jesus planted a sense of history, reminding them of what He had done in the past. In the last part of the third quarter, Jesus taught them the Christian view of world history.
- Fieldwork: Jesus never missed a ‘teachable moment’, because he had the clear purpose and contents of his teaching in his heart.
- Key Leader training: From start to finish (all 4 quarters) Jesus focused on the key leaders, especially one person, Peter. For example, he gave a name to Simon, “Peter”, which means ‘Rock’, the foundation of the church. In 16:7, Jesus specifically mentions Peter: “But go and tell his disciples, and Peter...”.
- From the beginning Jesus had a clear focus of raising key leaders for the gospel ministry. But this focus was not stand alone.
- Rather it is based on how Jesus carefully sharpened the other four elements for this focus.
- In other words, life together, bible study, planting a sense of history, and fieldwork training are all moving toward this focus of raising key leaders. This is what the upward arrow indicates, “Sharpening the Focus”.
- On the other hand, as we look at Jesus’ methods, from a disciple’s standpoint, like that of Peter, James, John, or the other nine, it is clear that Jesus carefully strengthened the foundations with great patience.
- The disciples grew up as leaders through fieldwork training. This fieldwork training was possible because Jesus had instilled in them a sense of history, and a proper perspective of God in their hearts.

- Such deeper insight about God, who is at work in the world, was possible through Jesus' ministry of God's Word.
- And it was Bible study that made their sense of History possible. But such Bible study was not through distant learning; rather it was through close life together.
- The great privilege of Jesus' disciples was to share life together in deep personal fellowship with Jesus and one another.
- Jesus' disciples probably wept many tears of joy and appreciation, knowing how carefully Jesus worked on their foundations. This is what the downward arrow indicates, "Strengthening the Foundations".
- Many ministries are unsuccessful because they may not have a clear focus of raising key leaders, although many people may gather around a powerful preacher or popular speaker.
- At the same time, it is tempting to expect to have these top quality leaders as soon as possible, without working to lay down the vital foundations.
- However Jesus' ministry was fruitful and solid because he constantly sharpened his focus on raising the key leaders while strengthening the foundations.

## I. Common Life

Among the methods of Jesus' discipleship training, common life is the most fundamental and important method.

Common life is literally to live together. The primary *purpose* of Jesus' calling his disciples was to "be with him."

At the same time, 'to be with him' is the *method* of Jesus' discipleship training.

Jesus called his disciples and he always took them around with him and spent time with them.

Jesus was with them always: when he taught the Bible and explained it(1:21; 4:10; 7:17),  
when he taught the new truth(8:14; 9:28; 10:10; 12:43; 13:3),  
when he went to visit someone(1:29; 5:31),  
when he was invited to a dinner(2:15),  
when he traveled(2:23; 8:27, 10:32,46; 11:1),  
when he took rest(3:7; 6:30),  
when he fed the crowd of people(6:37; 8:1),  
when he was in danger(4:35-36),  
when he was rejected by his hometown people(6:1-4),  
when he was transfigured(9:2),  
when he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane(14:2),  
when he taught about the meaning of his crucifixion on the cross and planted resurrection faith(9:30-32; 14:17; 16:14).

Jesus was always with his disciples, not just from time to time.  
He was with them both in the time of his popularity and in the time of rejection,  
and both in the time of his suffering and in the time of his glory.  
He was always with his disciples except when he prayed in private and when he was crucified on the cross.

We can easily imagine that he must have had many difficulties to be with his disciples.

We want to be alone when we are tired. However, Jesus could not remain alone or have some quiet time, even when he was very tired.

When we live together, our weaknesses are easily exposed to others, even more so than our good points. In general, weaknesses are exposed more vividly.

The disciples of Jesus had many weaknesses and human faults and it must have been hard for Jesus to live with them. Jesus did not have any weaknesses to be exposed.

But since we have many weaknesses, it is not easy for us to live together.

Common life demands self-sacrifice and a spiritual struggle from us. Why then did Jesus use such a method?

**First**, Jesus wanted to establish a personal love relationship with his disciples.

Discipleship training is not a mere transmission of knowledge or skill, but an influence of personality.

This kind of education is not possible in a lecture hall; it is possible when somebody shows an example and establishes a deep love relationship through personal contact.

The best way to build up a personal love relationship is through common life.

**Second**, Jesus wanted his disciples to learn Jesus' personality and imitate his life style.

As we know children very naturally learn their parents' personality and imitate their lifestyle.

One child was beaten by his father, and so he determined not to beat his own child. But when he became a father, he found himself doing the same things his father did. Like father, like son.

In another example, John Wesley, who founded the Methodist denomination, lived very regularly. He followed a tight schedule from morning to night based on the Word of God and prayer. These ideas originated from his mother Susanna's lifestyle.

Likewise, Jesus wanted them to learn from him in their practical lives.

Jesus did not try to force them to believe that he was the Messiah. Jesus wanted them to realize who he was through their own observations.

For this purpose, Jesus constantly taught them the word of God and showed them a good example in every way.

In order to teach his humble servant's attitude he washed his disciples stinky feet. Then he also told them, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."(John 13:15)

Setting a good example is the best way to educate for it moves a person's heart. Although it may seem to be a slow way to educate, it is the fastest and surest way. And it is also the hardest way.

In the early Seoul pioneering work from 1966 to 1977, God worked mightily among proud SNU students through Dr. Lee and Mother Barry. They opened their daily lives for us to see, thus setting a good example. Dr. Lee invited many hungry students to his house and fed them everyday. I was one of the hungry students.

Mother Barry was living in a very compact little room while most American missionaries were living in a missionary compound. She invited each of us to her room and served us delicious American coffee. We were greatly moved by her humble life.

**Third,** Jesus wanted to protect his disciples from the evil influence of the world.

The environment is very important for a man to grow. Therefore, Jesus made a spiritual community in order to provide them a healthy spiritual environment.

Jesus considered a spiritual community very important. Mark 3:31-35, shows that Jesus treated his disciples as his own family members, even putting them before his own physical family members.

People of today would rather be individualistic than be sacrificial. Under this kind of circumstance, it is hard to have common life. Nevertheless, the harder the times are, the more important to have common life.

However, many of us have a desire to have common life with our sheep, but we have no room to share. Is it impossible, then, for us to be with our disciples? No. If we wish to be with them, there are many ways to be with them.

We can eat together or drink a cup of coffee together, or play table-tennis together. Most of all, we can study the Bible one to one or share testimonies together. If we want to be with them, we can be with them in many ways.

By being with them, we can bear with their weaknesses and short

comings, protect them and take care of them. It might be called "babysitting."

The most important thing in the common life is to form a community based on one spiritually mature leader. It is not recommended to have a common life among those who are of the same spiritual level. If they do, they can be easily destroyed together. So we must always have a mature spiritual leader in common life.

From the early pioneering work in Anam ministry, we applied Jesus' common life to our ministry. Through common life God blessed our ministry abundantly.

However, sometimes, we failed. When we raised disciples of Jesus through common life, a problem arose that we did not foresee.

Many of the teams of student disciples, of the same spiritual maturity, lived together. Satan worked among them and they fell apart because of lack of mature spiritual leadership.

They would judge each others' faults and complained. They would gossip about who married whom. Through this we learned that for common life, it is crucial to have one strong spiritual leader.

London UBF shepherds Ian Kaier and Paul Ridge took students into their own homes. Sh. Ian and his wife Msn. Ji Eun were both busy in their PhD programs. Msn. Ji Eun also went through a miscarriage. Yet they took two students in to live with them, Darren and James. Darren, concerned about his health, would boil oriental medicine, and the smell in the house was nearly unbearable for Sh. Ian.

But Sh. Ian bore Darren's weaknesses. He focused on raising him sacrificially in many ways. They were together everyday, going to early morning prayer at 6 am, preparing daily bread bible study, and eating breakfast together in the center daily, and of course seeing each other in the house. Darren grew through their sacrificial love until he married by faith.

In the same way they raised James as a disciple of Jesus. James will marry on upcoming Feb. 13 of the year by faith.

Shepherd Paul Ridge also established a common life in his house.

One student moved in, along with others. Some were often difficult to live with, making no spiritual progress, and living double lifestyles. But Paul sacrificed for them.

When he would come home from work, he would go to his Bible student and see how he was, talking for a couple hours at a time, rather than relaxing with his wife and three cute children.

Through these examples, we can see that common life of leading one or two people into one's home, and studying the Bible with them, following up on them, and helping them to grow—this is how we may actually raise disciples in our generation.

## II. BIBLE STUDY

### First, Diligent Teaching

One of the most important methods of Jesus' disciple training was Bible study. While Jesus was with his disciples, he mainly taught them the word of God.

Common life is done not only by Jesus' disciples but also by many other groups, such as cult groups or other ideological organizations. Therefore, **what we do** together is more important than just gathering together.

If we gather together just to eat and sleep, it does not have much meaning.

If we gather together to criticize each other or share many complaining topics and humanistic rumors, it would be much better not to get together.

Such gatherings would be harmful to our spiritual growth. Therefore, it is essential to build up a spiritual atmosphere, centering our meeting around God's word and prayer.

While Jesus was with his disciples, he spent most of his time teaching and counseling his disciples with God's word.

Wherever he went: in the synagogue, a house, the seashore, an open field, in the street, he taught the word of God to his disciples(1:21-22,38-39; 4:1-35; 6:2,34; 8:31; 12:41; 13:3-5; 14:22-25; 16:15-18).

Jesus taught the word of God all day long, from early in the morning, during meal times, to late at night.

In a word, Jesus taught the word of God in season and out of season, regardless of place or environment as long as he had a chance to teach the word of God. Then why did Jesus teach them the word of God so diligently?

**In the first place**, Jesus wanted to plant faith in their hearts. Romans 10:17 says, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." When we study the word of God, we can be in contact with God's revelation and enter into the world of faith.

**Secondly**, Jesus wanted his disciples, who had carnal, materialistic, humanistic and worldly ways of thinking to have spiritual and God-centered ideas and value system through Bible study.

John 15:3 says, "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

John 17:8a also says, "For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them." Jesus molded his disciples into holy men of God by teaching them the word of God.

**Thirdly**, Jesus wanted them to give up their worldly hope and have a new hope in the kingdom of God. Jesus' disciples put their hopes in earthly things, such as wealth, power and honor.

Their idea about the Messiah was political. Jesus taught them the word of God constantly so that they might become spiritual and put their hope in the kingdom of God.

**Fourthly**, Jesus raised them as Bible teachers so that they might take over Jesus' gospel ministry.

When we want to raise disciples of Jesus, we need to teach them the word of God.

It is because according to Romans chapter 10, the salvation of mankind can be done through spreading the word of God.

Therefore, the Apostle Paul also imitated Jesus and taught the word of God and told his beloved disciple, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 4:1,2, "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season..."

If we do not teach the Bible, nothing happens.

However, when we teach the Bible diligently, the work of salvation happens and humanistic and worldly people can be changed into men of God.

I remember that Mother Barry taught the Bible in English continuously, from 8:00 am to 9:00 am daily, from 1961 until she came to America in 1978. She is still teaching the Bible without ceasing. God raised so many spiritual leaders through her continuous Bible teaching.

## **Second, Jesus Helped them to Consider the Word of God Carefully (4:11, 23-25)**

When Jesus taught the word of God, he did not teach them in a cramming method.

Jesus taught them the word of God through parables so that his disciples might think about the deep meaning of God's word(4:11).

When they asked for the meaning of the word of God, he gave answers. Jesus called the kingdom of God a secret.

It meant that the kingdom of God is hidden as precious treasures are hidden. Therefore, the disciples must diligently search out the meaning of God's word as if they are searching for treasures.

Jesus said in Mark 4:24, "Consider carefully what you hear." It means that we should listen and think about the meaning of God's word carefully.

Jesus wanted to increase their thinking power by helping them to consider God's word carefully. Thinking power is an essential quality to become an independent Bible teacher.

The world of God's word is like a deep ocean or a gold mine.

When we look at the ocean, nothing appears on the surface, however, it is filled with all kinds of precious treasure as we enter into it deeply.

Also, we can find more gold as we dig deep into a gold mine.

The more we meditate on the word of God, the more spiritual treasures we can have in our hearts(4:24).

Therefore, blessed are those who meditate on the word of God. The psalmist said that blessed are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord(Psalm 1:2).

Such people can bear much fruit, like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers(Psalm 1:3).

When I first received intern training under Dr. Samuel Lee, I read many commentary books in order to know the meaning of the word of God.

But Dr. Lee advised me not to read commentary books but to pray and read the Bible passage itself. He told me that I need to open my spiritual eyes to understand the word of God through prayer and meditating the word of God. I took his advice in my heart.

So from that time on I have prayed earnestly and given my heart to the word of God with a strong desire to find hidden treasures in the word of God.

I made a great effort to discard my old knowledge and pay careful attention to know what the word of God actually says.

Sometimes I could not understand the word of God. Then I prayed. Then the Holy Spirit revealed the meaning of God's words, and the meaning was marvelous and wonderful.

At those times I experienced God's love and joy.

Through this I could enjoy the secret joy of tasting hidden treasure in the word of God and growing through it.

When the word of God abounds in me, I could see the work of God also growing in my ministry.

I realized that the work of God is the work of God's words, and they go side-by-side.

It is easy for us to study the word of God in order to teach others, but then we become like Pharisees without realizing it. But when we give our hearts to hear the word of God personally, we can have the joy of knowing the secret of the kingdom of God in the word of God and grow.

### **Third, Repetition Method**

When Jesus taught God's word, he repeated important teachings again and again when his disciples did not accept them.

This time Jesus used the cramming method.

When he fed the multitude of people, he repeatedly taught a shepherd's sense of responsibility and compassion (6:41; 8:6). Most of all, Jesus taught the way of the cross and servanthship again and again(8:31; 9:9; 10:33; 14:21;9:35; 10:43-44).

Although his disciples refused to listen to him, Jesus constantly taught them.

As good medicine has a bitter taste, so the way of the cross and servanthship is bitter but good to our spiritual growth.

So we have to plant the way of the cross and servanthship in the hearts of our disciples by teaching them over and over again.

As we observed, we can find that whenever Jesus repeated important teachings such as shepherd heart, the way of the cross and servanthship, he applied these things to himself first, setting a good example, and then, he helped his disciples to accept important lessons by teaching them over and over again.

### III. History Education

When Jesus trained his disciples, he helped them to have a sense of God's history.

One day after Jesus fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish, the disciples became very tired as they rowed their boat at night.

When they saw Jesus walking on the water, they screamed and yelled, thinking that he was a ghost. Mark recorded the cause of their fear as follows: "for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened"(Mark 6:52).

Mark points out that they had no sense of God's history.

And after Jesus fed four thousand, he warned his disciples to be careful about the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod(8:14,15).

Then his disciples related yeast to bread and thought that Jesus was talking about the bread they did not bring.

At that time, Jesus saw their lack of sense of God's history and rebuked them very severely, saying, "Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?

When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up? 'Twelve,' they replied.

And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up? They answered, 'Seven.'

He said to them. "Do you still not understand?" Jesus helped them to have a sense of God's history.

It is very important to have a sense of history. When we have a sense of history, we can relate the past to the present.

When we remember how God has miraculously worked, we can have faith and overcome our present realities. Furthermore, we can create a new history.

Our God is the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. This means that our God is the God of history.

In Korea, many people have said that disciple making is almost impossible these days, unlike in the 70's and 80's.

When I came to America many people said that disciple making is possible in Korea but not in America. But I don't think so.

It is quite possible to raise disciples of Jesus even today, and even in America, because our God is almighty, and God is the same yesterday, today and forever(Hebrews 13:8).

Our God is living. God is not the God of the dead but of the living(Mark 12:27). God reveals his almighty power even today through those who believe in him.

In chapter 13, Jesus helped his disciples to have a clear view of Christian history.

When we have a clear view of world history, we can serve world mission with assurance.

#### **IV. Field Work Training**

**First**, Jesus Trained his Disciples Case-by-Case (4:40 6:37). When Jesus trained his disciples, he not only taught them the word of God but also took a chance at a time in their daily lives in order to plant faith in Jesus and a shepherd's heart for the crowd.

When the disciples met a storm, Jesus calmed the storm and rebuked his disciples for their lack of faith.

When Jesus fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish, he commanded his disciples, "You give them something to eat!"

Jesus could do this because he had his disciples in his mind and prayed for them daily.

And he could do this because he carefully observed and paid attention to each of them in ordinary times, in the hope of raising them as useful servants of God.

**Second**, Jesus Trained them through Practice (6:7-13; 6:38,39). Mark 6:7-13 teaches that Jesus gave his disciples a chance to practice. Jesus not only trained them case by case but also trained them according to his training-program.

Fieldwork training is very important to raise excellent gospel workers. Excellent doctors and soldiers can be raised only through enough field-work experience.

How much more, then, would the disciples of Jesus, who have to save men's souls from the power of sin and Satan, need fieldwork experience?

## **V. Key Leader Training**

Jesus not only trained the twelve disciples but also raised the top three disciples. Among the Twelve, Jesus paid special attention to three disciples, and among the three, he paid attention to Peter.

When he called the Twelve, he gave nick names only to these three disciples. Jesus added the name Peter to Simon, and Boanerges to James and John (3:16,17).

Jesus wanted them to become useful servants of God through the change of their inner persons. No doubt, Jesus had great vision and hope for the other nine disciples as he raised them.

Nevertheless, Jesus paid special attention to these three disciples and raised them as his top disciples. Why did Jesus raise them as top disciples?

**First**, Jesus formed the top disciples group in order to make a nucleus among them.

**Second**, it was to raise them as serving servants. In Mark 10:42-45, Jesus taught his disciples to become serving servants.

Worldly rulers try to dominate everyone over them. Using their high position they want to lord it over others.

However, the disciples of Jesus must be different from them. Spiritual leaders in Jesus' community must be the servants of all. They should imitate Jesus, not worldly leaders.

Mark 10:45 says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus said this to all of his twelve disciples, especially to his three top disciples who had a sense of superiority toward the others.

Here we learn why Jesus raised his three top disciples, not because he wanted them to rule over others, but because he wanted them to become humble and serve and embrace other coworkers with servanthship and self-sacrifice.

**Third**, Jesus wanted to make them his partners.

Right before he was arrested, Jesus had his last Passover meal with his disciples and took his eleven disciples with him to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Then he took only the three top disciples with him and showed his weakness before them.

In general, people want to show their strong points, not their weak points, but Jesus exposed his struggle to them.

Why did he do that?

It was because he wanted his disciples to participate in his sufferings as his coworkers. Jesus asked his disciples to stay awake and pray for him.

In 1978 the Anam Disciple making ministry began in our hearts as a vision for Korea University.

In the Spring semester of 1979 we went out inviting students to bible study.

Many students began bible study. However, I focused on raising a few students as disciples of Jesus.

I was inspired by 'the Cambridge Seven', seven students who were raised as great spiritual leaders in Cambridge University.

I named our disciples the 'Seven Tigers', since the mascot of Korea University is the Tiger.

I was concerned about how to raise them as disciples of Jesus step by step.

I realized that Jesus' disciples were not raised in a short, but in a life-long period, at least fifteen years. In order to raise the Seven Tigers as disciples of Jesus, we tried to follow up continuously for many years, until they became independent, useful men of God.

We tried to help commit their lives to Jesus. When we focused on raising the Seven Tigers as disciples of Jesus, God blessed our small group ministry abundantly. As more and more sheep came each year, we would establish teams.

The first team was 'Senior tiger', then 'Junior tiger', 'Young Tiger', 'Mark Tiger', and 'John Tiger', etc. each year establishing a new team and still continuing today.

However, we found quantity without enough quality in our disciple-raising.

So we began to form a team called the 'Green Berets', based on Mark 10: 29-30, 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life."

The Green Berets were student disciples who were clearly following Jesus in their lives. They were ready to do whatever, to marry whomever, and to go wherever for the gospel. The most of them established house churches by faith and went out as missionaries.

My point is that we tried to raise key leaders—especially one person.

<slide: Jesus' cycle of influence>

- **This diagram shows spiritual order of Jesus' community. Please do not misinterpret this diagram as a power ranking or hierarchy. The concentric circles are not inner circles that protect Jesus or block the crowd.**
- **The Inward Arrow: Jesus gave the disciples, especially the top three, privilege to learn Jesus, and approach him directly**

at any time. However, it was not easy for the crowd to directly approach Jesus. So they needed mediators: the disciples.

- **The Outward Arrow:** Jesus didn't want his disciples to use their privileges for their own benefit. Jesus wanted his disciples to have responsibility, stewardship, and servanthip toward the crowd.

Up to now, we have learned that Jesus' way of discipleship training was not bound to a certain formality.

It was rather diverse and creative. Jesus was indeed a matchless disciple-maker. Jesus was a great potter who molded clay-like disciples to become great teachers of mankind. Praise Jesus.

When we study Jesus' disciple-making ministry, we impressed, but discouraged.

Jesus was a perfect example, but we are not.

We realize, "I am far from Jesus. Jesus is Jesus, I am me."

However, Jesus says in John 14:12, "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."

Then Jesus continued to say in verse 14, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

Once Winston Churchill, who helped lead the Allies to victory in World War 2, said, "Don't give up. Don't give in. Never, never, never, never."

We can apply these words to our disciple-making ministry: "Never, never, never, never give up in making disciples of Jesus."

**Through today's lecture, let us keep in mind three things.**

**First, Big Picture.** We must have a clear big picture of disciple making ministry.

**Second, Step by step, life-long ministry.** We must not hurry, but have a life-long vision to raise disciples consistently and persistently.

**Third, Key leader training.** We must focus on key leader training for the kingdom of God, not our own ministry.

**One Word: Never give up disciple-making ministry!**

**Never, never, never, never!**