

Theme: We are not spectators to God's work in the world. As followers of Christ we must be active participants in that work. Teaching directs us in what we must do; discipleship is the path to become "doers" of the word - not just hearers.

Background & Introduction: The Problem with Preachers? We think that preaching should solve all problems and completely change peoples' lives. But teaching only gives us the tools. It is in relationships that they can be put into practice.

Jesus came into this world with...

I. A Monumental Task

A. Secure our salvation

- Deliver us from the wrath of God
- Fulfill all righteousness
- Prepare his followers to follow him

B. Let the whole world know

- Provide a way for the message of salvation to be shared to the end of the earth
- Isaiah 45:22; Isaiah 52:10; Acts 13:47

How would He accomplish the task?

II. The Model for "Success"

A. Public teaching/ministry (Mark 1:38, 39)

- Jesus taught (Matthew 7:29; Matthew 9:35; Mark 2:13; Luke 13:22)

B. Personal ministry - teaching/training the disciples (Mark 9:31)

- Instructing
- Correcting
- Directing
- 1. His *choice* of disciples (Luke 6:12,13)
 - a. Ordinary people
 - b. A *diverse* lot
- 2. His *investment* in the disciples
 - Mark 7:17; Matthew 13:36
- 3. His *commissioning* of the disciples
 - Do greater works John 14:12
 - Feed my sheep John 21:15ff
 - In all the nations Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8

It was soon...

III. Put to the Test

- Is a "profession of faith" enough? (John 6:66)
 - Professing faith vs. following in faith
- Would Jesus' model reach the world?

A. New Testament examples

1. Acts 2:41ff
 - 3000 new believers!
 - What to do with them all?!
2. The lives of the apostles
 - 2 Timothy 2:2

B. Modern examples

- It is still a working model!

IV. Make Disciples

The challenge remains!

A. No other plan!

- We can't turn back Luke 9:62
- Elisha's decision 2 Kings 2:4-6

B. It's down to us

- Who are *you* going to invest in?

C. Are we there yet?

- We are a "work in process"