

How did Jesus disciple his disciples?

You'd think that Jesus, being loving and fair and knowing humans through and through, aware of all their short comings and failings, would have taken the disciples step by step, gently gently, at the perfect pace, placing them in a nurturing community, ministering to their brokenness, teaching them right theology and addressing their errant and sinful behaviours, all before setting them to serve on mission.

But it seems in the gospels that the minute someone began to follow Jesus, they found themselves caught up in mission. Peter, Andrew, James and John are not called to a graded step by step spiritual growth program, but to become fishers of people – “Come on mission with me” seems to be Jesus direct call. There's no in between stage – you're either not following Jesus, or you're on his mission.

At one level that freaks me out, the immediacy of it, the no-holes-barred-no-beg-your-pardons of Jesus' audacity and expectations.

But it also reassures me. If there was a 'let's see how you go, and when you're ready you can begin to serve' clause, I bet I would never join the mission of God. Not because I don't want to, but if I had to wait to be ready, I would never be. I would never think myself strong or qualified enough.

Fortunately, in 1984, someone else in the kingdom had a grip on this, and invited me, as a green and ignorant, fragile and foolish 16 year old to join the mission of God, going on a Scripture Union Summer Beach Mission Team. I was in no way ready. But that was not the point. And because it wasn't a matter of being 'at the right stage' of my faith to go, I just went. And I'm going again this year. And I've been every year (well except 2) in the last 25. And we've taken our kids, when they were less than 2 months old, because it wasn't about being ready or old or wise or clever or gifted or spiritual or mature enough. Jesus just wants all of us to be engaged in his mission of reconciling the world to God.



Leadership

'How did Jesus disciple his disciples?' continued...

Last weekend as I was training a beach mission team I spoke to a dad with 3 kids who said "We go on beach mission because its the best way of having our kids disciplined."

Now isn't that interesting? He doesn't take his kids along to the program to hear bible teaching and hang out with the enthusiastic team of young leaders. He throws his kids (and himself) into being that mission...

I reckon he's on to something.

There are family camps and beach mission teams in many locations in Victoria.

Consider this as a great way to grow some young people in your congregation, or to strengthen a family.

Because mission is incarnational and relational (as well as Biblical and Invitational) just being part of a team, and doing life together is readily transformed by the Spirit of God, into a powerful proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom.

"because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake." 1 Thess 1:5

There are still opportunities to join some teams for this coming summer season. Contact Mavis Payne
www.suvic.org.au.

Or speak to me directly.

Peace,
Beth

