



### **Redefined: MVC**

*Matt 28:18-20* November 18, 2018

#### I. Introduction:

- A. When it comes to preaching you could say that today's message is the end of the series on discipleship and it's time to move onto something else.
    - 1. But I do not see today's message as the conclusion to the series but rather as the launching pad to a discipleship movement at MVC.
    - 2. My prayer, my hope, my dream is that discipleship will become part of the DNA at MVC, it will become part of the environment of MVC, it will become part of the culture of MVC over the next five years.
  - B. I want to launch us today by reviewing what we have learned so far and then talk about next steps from here in order to start building discipleship into the DNA of MVC.
- Let's start with our ...

#### II. Review

- A. My hope of this review on one hand is so that we can better crystalize in our minds the things we have learned together about discipleship, but even more so to stir up our hearts in being disciples.
- B. We called this series Redefined! The reason for that is that we wanted to strip away all the current day thinking in North America about what a disciple is and go back to the Bible to allow the Word of God to once again define what a disciple is. – Thus redefined!
- C. So we learned in our introductory message two foundational things!
  - 1. First the mission that Jesus gave to the church was to make disciples and we do that by going, baptizing and teaching
    - a) Turn and read Mt 28:18-20

- b) Going to the lost with the gospel message, baptizing those who respond to the message of Jesus' salvation by faith, then finally spending the rest of our lives teaching and learning what it means to live by the word of God
  - 2. We also learned in that message that disciples are not a subclass of Christians, superstar or all-star Christians, but rather that the word disciple is synonymous with being a believer in Jesus Christ.
    - a) So the real question as a believer is not am I a disciple or not but rather am I living like a disciple or not because that is who I really am.
- D. So in light of the first week our next job was to redefine a disciple. That week we also learned two major lessons.
  - 1. First, the word disciple means learner or pupil.
    - a) In addition, we learned that when a pupil or disciple is fully trained he will be like his teacher. Read Lk 6:40
    - b) Since we are disciples of Jesus the end goal of our growth is becoming more like Jesus. – Thus the mission of MVC includes becoming like Jesus!
  - 2. The second thing we learned that morning was from the call of Jesus to the disciples in Matt 4:19-20 Read
    - a) We ended up that day by saying the definition of a disciple summarized in four words is, Following Jesus, impacting others!
- E. Then we spent a week looking at the third way of making a disciple – this is teaching
  - 1. Read v20a
  - 2. We learned that week that being a disciple is not just studying the Bible more and learning more truth but actually, while it does require studying the Bible, the end goal is not knowledge but obedience. Living our lives under the direction of God's word
  - 3. Thus we have adapted in many different places here the importance of the language "next step of obedience" and we have even created a "next steps table" where you could discuss this personally with someone.
- F. Then we redefined growing as a disciple
  - 1. We learned the valuable lesson that each one of us is at different places in our journey with Jesus thus each one of us needs something different for us to continue to grow as a disciple.

2. We learned one size does not fit all when it comes to Christian growth and that some people need to get to keep growing and some people need to give to keep growing
  3. This Power Point summarized that morning.
- G. Then we learned there is a cost to impacting others for Jesus.
1. We learned in 2 Timothy 2 about the self-imposed suffering or hardship in order to impact others.
  2. We learned that we are called to be like a
    - a) Soldier that sets aside his own agenda to carry out the agenda and mission of our commanding officer Jesus.
    - b) Athlete who must follow the rules in order to win the prize – we must set aside our ideas and ways and follow the way God says to do it
    - c) And like the farmer we must work hard
- H. Then we redefine the method of discipleship.
1. We learned in this message that we must not only buy into the mission of discipleship and the message of discipleship – which is the Bible, but also into the method of discipleship which is not just adding disciples but multiplying disciples – making disciples who make disciples.
  2. We saw that Paul bought into Jesus’ method of making disciples, which was to go deeply with a few and give priority time to those who would learn to give it away to others!
- I. Then we looked at obstacles that keep us back from following Jesus and impacting others. We saw two primary ones
1. First, living for today rather than eternity. We are so caught up in the problems and opportunities of this world, the two-second life, that we give no thought to the part of our lives that will last forever – the big one!
  2. The second obstacle is that people are in the driver’s seat of their own car rather than letting Jesus take control and ownership of their lives.
- J. Then we looked at the problem of inadequacy, that feeling that everyone of us has that we are just not enough to be the disciple Jesus wants us to be and we do not have enough to impact others.
1. Read Matt 28:20b

2. We learned that Jesus being with us is not just a matter of Him being in the same room but also Him working along with us in what we are doing. He puts his fingerprints all over our lives and work for him.
- K. Then we learned from Pastor Mike Locke the importance of God's word in this journey of discipleship
1. We learned that God's word is reliable and can be trusted
  2. We learned the value of God's word in that it leads our lives!
  3. Jesus said in John 8:31
- L. Mike also taught us as a disciple why we should follow Jesus! – Simply because our call as disciples is higher than we can achieve but Jesus has reached down in love to be what we need to live for Him!
- That is the heart of what we learned in this series. Now what are

### III. The next steps in making discipleship part of the DNA of MVC

#### A. Let look at a simple chart.

1. PP
2. All four of these can in one way or another be considered discipleship but the bottom two were the most intense and most effective ways Jesus disciplined people.
3. So those are the two we are going to try to strengthen over the next five years at MVC.

#### B. First, let's talk about the twelve –

1. The small group of men that Jesus selected.
  - a) This was an important decision for Jesus because they are the ones to whom He was entrusting His life work!
  - b) It was so important that He spent an entire night away on the mountain praying about it. And when morning came, He called those who were following Him, probably the seventy, and out of them he chose twelve that he called apostles.
  - c) These twelve are the people Jesus primarily invested in and took with him everywhere teaching and modeling for them God's way of life and ministry. Simply how to follow Jesus and impact others!
2. To us at MVC the twelve is our small group ministry

- a) This ministry has become very important to us as we seek to make small groups part of the DNA of MVC that we have refocused part of Tami Reyna's responsibilities to include being our director of small groups so we can give more intentionality and time to this important discipleship structure.
- b) Small groups are the perfect place to grow with others as disciples of Jesus Christ as we deeply connect with God and with one another through our small group ministry.
  - (1) Remember the means of discipleship is really all about people rubbing off on people.
  - (2) And continuing in God's Word
  - (3) And seeking our next step of obedience and helping each other reach our next step of obedience as we grow as disciples
  - (4) So we need to be committed to some people to do this.
- c) In addition, a proper view of small groups is not adding another thing to our already busy schedules but rather putting something in busy schedules where I can regain my bearings in Christ with other disciples in the midst of our busy schedules!
- d) Here are some details about small groups at MVC
  - (1) We are hoping for group sizes of around 10-12 people
  - (2) We are going to have two small group sessions a year, one in fall and one in winter and spring where you will meet every other week. We will be taking the summers off.
  - (3) So by signing up you are not signing up for a lifetime but rather at least one semester but hopefully two to find out if that group is a good fit for you or not.
  - (4) A new element to our groups as well will be that the staff will be providing materials for the groups to go through that will be based on the current series – thus allowing a greater oneness within the church as we are all wrestling through, talking about, and praying about the same things at the same time.
- e) For many here today I would guess that this is probably your next step of obedience to put yourself in a place where you can continue to grow as a disciple!

- (1) We are very excited to be kicking off some new small groups at the beginning of the year!
- (2) You can sign up for a small group starting today after the service for the next 3 weeks, or sign up on line or by calling the office.

B. Next, let's talk about the three.

1. The three were the ones that Jesus spent most of His time with.
  - a) Peter, James, and John were at everything else the seventy and twelve were at, but these three had experiences and had discussions with Jesus that no one else did.
  - b) In addition, these three became key leaders in the early church as we saw in the book of Acts.
2. Here at MVC our desire is to begin a Spirit led movement which is more about mystery than management when it comes to investing deeply in a few at a time.
  - a) The key strategy of this movement is buying into the method that Jesus used of it multiplication – giving priority to investing deeply in a few who have the desire to give away to others!
  - b) I think you will remember from our sermon this is not just an exclusive group of a few but also ultimately our attempt to touch many in a deep way to be followers of Jesus who are impacting others.
3. We are going to be jump starting this in January as well as we have a core team of six men and women who said they want to see this movement happen at MVC.
  - a) This fall these six will be contacting individuals they sense God is leading them to, to be part of a small group for six months where they will be receiving a greater vision for discipleship the way Jesus did.
  - b) If you say, “Hey I really have a heart the beats for that and want to be a part of this movement” please go to the next steps table and let them know your desire for this and give them your contact info and someone will reach out and talk to you about this.

C. Finally, discipleship being part of MVC's DNA means that discipleship has become a mindset of the people of MVC that naturally fills their hearts is part of their natural conversations and their normal way of life. I actually saw glimpses of this as I was in normal conversations with two different women during this series.

1. One told me that she wants to walk better with Jesus and there was a woman whom she admires for her passion for the Lord and said that she is going to ask her to mentor her.
  2. Another woman who is walking well with the Lord and she told me she is praying regarding who she can invest her life in!
- D. May God that multiply 500 fold here at MVC and if He does in five years we will need three services to hold all the people who are following Jesus and impacting others!