

The Gospel of Matthew #24

TRAINING, TEACHING, TOUCHING: THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Matthew 4:17-25

See Jesus' threefold strategy for bringing in the Kingdom:

I. TRAINING: v18-22

A. Simon/Peter and brother Andrew: v18-20

Knew Him before: Jn 1:40-42

B. James and brother John: v21-22

John likely the one referred to in John 1:35-39

They went with Him to Cana (Jn 2:1-2). Then back to their homes and families and jobs

Jesus now calling them to live with Him and follow Him

Observations:

1. "Follow Me" is a sovereign call to
 - a) submissive obedience: left their nets and obeyed
 - b) trust: leaving all visible means of support

Contrast this to the glib loose identification with Jesus that is seen as Christianity today

2. His strategy for disciple-making is multiplication rather than addition
Win 3/day for 15 years: >15,000
Disciple 12 for 3 years: each does same: in 15 years 371,292

3. He made fishers, not just followers
Follow Me – inevitably you will become a fisher of people
So if you do not seek to "catch" people for Jesus, it raises the Q of whether you are following Him

4. Trained by life to life influence, not just head to head info
They were with Him 24/7 (Mark 3:14)
Priorities and lifestyle are caught, not just taught
Cells are a way of seeking to live in community

5. Note they are 2 sets of brothers: Jesus works in families

II. **TEACHING**: v23a (cf v17)

Ministry of **words** to **proclaim** the gospel of the kingdom

Teaching: opening up our need

Preaching: proclaiming good news

III. **TOUCHING**: v23b-25

Ministry of miraculous **works** to **prove** His power to defeat Satan, and establish the Kingdom of God

All kinds of healing—nothing too hard for Him

His fame spread W thru Galilee, N to Syria, E to Decapolis, S to Judea.

He is becoming famous!

Distinctive of Matthew: organizing his material into groups of **words** and **works** (with disciples always present) to highlight this

	<u>WORDS</u>	<u>WORKS</u>
Chapters	5-7: Sermon on Mt	8-9
	10: Charge to laborers	11-12
	13: Parables of kingdom	14-17
	18: Ways of the kingdom	19-22
	23-25: Last words	26-28 definitive Work of the cross

So What

1. Becoming a disciple (= Christian) means **following** Jesus, not just going along with some basic facts about Him
2. CPC's strategy is disciple-making thru seminars, cells, and one-to-one relationships-- not just attendance at large group gatherings
3. We are **transformed** to **mobilize** to make disciples in our community: thru **Socials**, **Seminars**, **Sports**, **Service**, as a Body, and individual witness in our unique callings.
4. Look back at Jesus, at how perfectly He does all this.
Adore and follow Him this week.