**EE Practicum – Session # 3**

**Building Strong Trainees**

**Luke 6:40**

1. **Introduction**

* I trust all of you were able to read through the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5,6,7. Realize that if you master these three chapters and then build these teachings in to your life you will understand “all that Jesus commanded His disciples to be and do.” (Matthew 28:19, 20).
* The little phrase, **“teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”** in the great commission is the ultimate goal of Christianity. Jesus said, **“If you love me you will keep my commandments,”** (John 14:15).
* The longer we walk with the Lord the more we realize that living out what Jesus taught and modeled is not an easy task. It requires an attitude of submission and a willingness to humble ourselves and serve sacrificially.
* I trust that each of you interacted with the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-11 by reading this passage through three times in varying translations. Then as you wrote them out in your own words you began to grasp the magnitude of Christ’s central teaching. They are the “**Be**atitudes not the **Do**atitudes.
* In order to help people grow spiritually, we must be growing ourselves. Peter said in II Peter 3:15, **“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”** Example: Growing new wood!
* In John 1:14 we read that Jesus was **“full of grace and truth.”** The longer we walk with and obey the Lord the more we should become like Him.
* In I John 3:2,3 we read, **Beloved, now we are children of God and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”** The goal of our Christian life is to be more like Christ.
* There is a song entitled “More Like the Master.” The first verse says:
* More like the Master I would ever be, more of His meekness, more humility; more zeal to labor, more courage to be true, more consecration for work He bids me do. Refrain: Take now my heart and make it all thine own.
* So in this second session, I want us to consider how to take trainees and build them in to reproducing disciple-makers. We are going to consider the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in how He took rough and tumble men like Peter, James and John and turned them in to builders of the kingdom.
* Bill Hull, a pastor from San Diego, CA, authored three books that I have in my library entitled, “Jesus Christ Disciple-Maker,” “The Disciple Making Pastor,” and “The Disciple Making Church.” On page # 190 of “The Disciple Making Pastor,” Pastor Hull outlines six specific steps in the teaching method of Jesus that explains what we do in EE as well.

1. **How to Teach Like Jesus – Six Steps in Developing a Trainee**
2. **Tell them “what” you want them to know and do.**

* The Great Commission is delivered five times, once in each gospel and then again in the first chapter of Acts (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). Jesus chose Peter, Andrew, James, John and Philip (Matthew 10:2) to be “with Him” daily.
* During the first four months of ministry training, Jesus exposed these disciples to the nature of ministry. This first phase of training is recorded in John 1:35-4:46. This information is not found in the synoptic gospels but only in the gospel of John.
* At the close of this four-month introductory period, Jesus first mentions the task in John 4:35 by saying **“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white unto harvest.”**
* These men were all fishermen but they had now caught a new vision from Jesus and that was to fish for men. Fishing was a way to make a living, fishing for men was a reason to live.
* As we take our trainees with us in to the harvest fields and they see lost people found and drowning people rescued by God’s amazing grace they begin to see how they can be used by God to reach people in their lives.

1. **Tell them “why” the work we are involved in is so important.**

* Jesus had shared with His disciples what needed to be done but in order to sustain commitment to the task. He had to give them a reason for “why” this mission was so important. After Zaccheus was converted Jesus said in Luke 19:10, **“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”** The disciples were reminded that lost people matter.
* In Mark 10:45 Jesus said, **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.”** As the disciples observed Christ they repeatedly saw His heart of service. So our EE trainee should be able to see our servant heart as well.
* In John 3:17 Jesus said, **“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that world through Him might be saved.”** It is vital for our trainees to know that we are concerned about the salvation of people that we meet and talk with.
* The whole reason we are training them to share the gospel is because people need forgiveness, new life, to be rescued from the penalty of sin and eternal separation from their Creator. A passion for the lost is caught rather than taught; Lord, please cause us to weep over the brokenness of our world. Jesus showed His disciples how much He cared for people.

1. **Show them “how” to share the Good News of the Gospel.**

* Jesus modeled His own commitment to multiplication by the fact that He had chosen His disciples to be “with Him”. Jesus separated out the twelve and gave them special responsibility and authority. They knew he was planning to pass the work on to them when He left.
* As with children, the investment of time and effort communicates love and importance and the same dynamic was at work with Jesus and His men. When we teach our trainees how to share the good news of the gospel and they see us actually leading someone to Christ they begin to see how God might use them to do the same.
* The disciples learned how to teach by watching Jesus teach. They knew how to pray for the sick, care for the weak and marginalized because Christ had modeled it for them. The disciples’ confidence in their ability to lead grew as they watched the Lord Jesus demonstrate confidence under the harshest and most difficult of circumstances.

1. **Share the Gospel “with them watching you.”**

* We need to let our trainees understand that we are fearful too and that we don’t always have the answers but that we are depending on the Lord to help us to handle difficulties and discouragements as they arise.
* A good trainer will begin sharing the gospel explanation with his trainee from the beginning and increasing the trainee’s involvement in accordance with his or her preparedness. Encourage every little effort and look for ways to praise your trainees and they will begin to blossom.
* Good trainers begin involving their trainees from the very first call with what we call a “yes” testimony. The trainer says to his trainee, “Would you say that you know for sure that if you died today you would go to be with God in heaven?” The trainee breaks the silence with a resounding “Yes!”
* Effective trainers learn how to encourage timid trainees and how to reign in over zealous trainees. There needs to be a healthy balance in how we manage and work with the varying personalities on our team.
* My doctoral thesis was written in response to research that I did with 100 of the participants in our EE ministry. The research showed no statistically significant difference related to personality with regard to a person’s success in the EE ministry. So no personality type is better than another.
* It is imperative that a trainer evaluates each call with his trainees. I would often leave a call but pull off the road when we got out of the neighborhood and say, “Okay! What did we do right?” Was there anything that we could have done differently that might have given us a different response? It’s okay to admit that you missed an opportunity as a trainer or blew it!
* Remind the trainee that our prayer partners were praying for us!

1. **“Have them Share the Gospel with you observing them.”**

* Often multiplication falls apart here either because people are given too much responsibility too soon or at other times the trainer doesn’t let his trainee share the gospel because he is afraid he won’t do it perfectly.
* It is important for a trainer to step back and let the trainee handle the entire call and doesn’t interrupt him or jump in unless the trainee signals him to do so. Then find things to praise your trainee for as he leads the conversation and shares the gospel for the first time on his own.
* I loved handing out certificates to trainees who had met all of the qualifications to be a trainer and then when they began training others was a time for celebration and joy. Then the final step is:

1. **“Deploy them to become trainers with trainees of their own.”**

* So there came the time when Jesus was ready for the disciples to do ministry on their own and he deployed them for the mission.
* As the time of Christ’s departure drew near, He increased the personal time that He spent with the twelve. His first priority was the cross; His second priority was the training of the twelve.
* In Matthew 10 we read how Jesus **“gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”** How exciting this must have been for the disciples to know that Jesus had confidence in their ability to fly on their own! Like the first time a pilot solos!
* In Luke 10 we have a parallel account of this event. Listen to report back session when the disciples returned to give their report. **“The seventy returned with joy saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name.**
* Jesus had taught, modeled, encouraged and prayed for them (John 17). Jesus had been flogged, humiliated, crucified, died and had been raised from the dead. Now He was ready to return to heaven when He says to the eleven disciples, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations…and lo, I am with you always” (**Matthew 28:18-20).
* The time had come for the disciples to be left with the mission. What had a been a weak, disappointed, discouraged and defeated group on Friday night became the unstoppable force of Christ’s Church all over the world and the **“gates of Hades will not prevail!”**
* Christ’s hard work of pouring His life in to His disciples was now paying off. He could leave His kingdom work in the hands of His disciples and now 21 Centuries later we can see God’s Church marching forward!

**Two Books to Reference:**

1. “The Disciple Making Pastor” by Bill Hull, chapter 8, pp. 190-211,

entitled ‘The Pastor as Coach’.

2. “The Master Plan of Evangelism” by Robert Coleman.