**EE Practicum – Session # 4**

**Building Strong Trainers**

1. **Introduction**

* In Session # 1 we did an Evangelism Explosion Refresher overview.
* In Session # 2 we showed how to build a strong Prayer Partner ministry
* In Session # 3 we talked about Building Strong Trainees – Luke 6:40
* Today, we want to consider what it takes to raise up a group of strong EE Trainers. It takes a great deal of prayer, planning and effort to build a strong, on-going EE ministry. Well-equipped EE trainers form the foundation upon which you can begin building a strong EE ministry.
* We must always ask ourselves if our ministry efforts are bringing about an ever-expanding company of dedicated people who are reaching the world with the gospel as a result of our ministry. The objective of the Great Commission is multiplication and we want to see this actually happening in our EE ministry.
* Jesus had a well thought through plan for His three years of earthly ministry. Jesus was the Master teacher and we need to study these underlying principles that He used consistently in His ministry.
* Bob Coleman in his book, “The Master Plan of Evangelism” lists eight guiding principles of the Lord’s plan which I want to briefly highlight and show you how these principles play out in the building of strong EE trainers. Jesus provides us with the beginning of a disciple-making model that Paul picks up in Acts.
* “The Master Plan of Evangelism” became the textbook for our Level II training and we led each of our associate trainers through the teaching of this book during the next level of our EE training. While the trainees were going through the first level of training which was Dr. Kennedy’s book, our new trainers went through each of these eight principles in their weekly assignments
* So let’s now walk through each of these eight principles:

**B. Eight Guiding Principles of the Master’s Plan**

1. **Selection –** Luke 6:13 **-** EE Recruitment of Trainees

* At the beginning of each semester of training I would give a 4X6 card to each of our trainers with 10 places for names of people the Lord would impress on them to begin praying for over the training period to see whom the Lord would have them enlist for the next semester of EE training.
* The major three characteristics for them to look for was (1) Look for people who are **faithful**; (2) Look for people who were able and **available** and (3) Look for people who are **teachable** and wanting to learn how to share the gospel. As you look for these people the Lord will bring names to mind.
* The initial objective of Jesus’ plan was to enlist men who could bear witness to His life and carry on His work after He returned to His Father. John and Andrew were the first to be invited in John 1:35-40. Andrew then brought his brother Peter (John 1:41, 42). The next day Jesus found Philip on his way to Galilee and Philip found Nathaniel (John 1:43-51).
* Common, ordinary, laboring men were Jesus’ method. Jesus saw in these simple men the potential of leadership for the Kingdom. What is possibly most significant about these men was that they were sincerely yearning for God and the realities of His life.
* What is interesting is the deliberate way in which Jesus proportioned His life. He taught the multitudes, He ministered to the needs of individuals, He discipled twelve, He was very intimate with three, Peter, James and John and He was closest with one man, John.
* John, would ultimately write the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John and was the one to whom Jesus shared His final culmination of teaching in the Book of “The Revelation.”
* The smaller the group to which He communicated the more concentrated the teaching and the greater the opportunity for effective instruction. Jesus didn’t neglect the masses. He taught them, He fed them, He healed their sick and blessed their children but He purposely did all of those things to model ministry for the twelve which He had called to be “with Him” in Mark 3:14.

1. **Association** – Matthew 28:20 - Placing Trainees on Three Person Teams

* Jesus was His own school and curriculum. In Matthew 11:29 Jesus said to His disciples, **“Take my yoke upon you and ‘learn of me’ for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”**
* Jesus reminded them in Luke 8:10, **“it is given unto you to know ‘the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.”** The knowledge they gained by **association** with Jesus would later be understood by **explanation**. In His presence these men could learn all that they needed to know for ministry.
* As the ministry of Christ lengthened into the second and third year Jesus gave increasingly more time to His disciples. Frequently He would take them with Him on a retreat to some mountainous area of the country for the express purpose of spending quality time with them.
* They walked together along lonely roads; they visited crowded cities together; they sailed and fished together on the Sea of Galilee; they prayed together in the deserts and in the mountains and they worshiped together in the synagogues and in the Temple.
* Some of the journeys were made partly to avoid the opposition of the Pharisees and the hostility of Herod but primarily because Jesus wanted to spend quality time, alone, with His disciples. These men were His spiritual children (Mark 10:24; John 13:33; 21:5) and the only way a father can impact his family is to spend both quality and a good quantity of time with them.
* Every one of the ten post-resurrection appearances of Christ was to His disciples particularly the chosen apostles (Acts 10:40, 41).
* I required our EE teams to follow up each new convert for next three weeks while they walked them through the gospel of John (21 days; one for each chapter). In those three weeks they were to call them, join them at church, take them to our New Beginnings class and help get them ready for baptism.
* There is simply no substitute for personal friendship for follow-up.

Example: Jim Uszynski; a local football coach; a new believer; a deacon

1. **Consecration** – Matthew 11:29 - Every person had two prayer partners

* Each team of three would have six people who committed to pray with each other every week. I did everything I could to make sure this guideline were followed. Some had more than two but everyone including myself had two.
* Each person involved had to turn in his or her homework every week and do the assignments faithfully. I expected people to follow through with the commitment they made at the beginning of the semester to pray and turn in their assignments and those who did so received encouragement and additional responsibility as they moved forward in the ministry.
* Jesus built accountability in to every step of His disciple-making pattern. In His parable regarding the use of money in Luke 19:17 He stated, **“because you have been faithful in a very little thing”** you will be given more. Jesus expected His men to obey Him and reminded them in John 14:23, **if anyone loves me he will keep My words.”**
* To be a follower of Christ meant the surrender of one’s whole life to the Master in absolute submission to His sovereign will and purpose. There could be no compromise. One could not follow Jesus without loosening his grip on worldly things. Jesus expected people to be committed and consecrated.
* Frankly, Jesus didn’t have the time nor the desire to invest in those who wanted to make their own terms of discipleship. When you hold the standard high, people will sacrifice to reach it. Set goals that are lofty & measurable.
* Too many people in ministry aim at nothing, hit the bull’s eye of nothing and then call it success. Not so with Christ and it shouldn’t be for us either.

1. **Impartation** – John 20:22 – Jesus gave His Disciples the Holy Spirit

* Jesus gave Himself away to His disciples. He sacrificed again and again on their behalf. His sanctification was not for the purpose of benefiting himself but was for His disciples to be sanctified in truth.
* His was a life of giving – giving away what the Father had given him (John 15; 17:4,8, 14). He gave them His peace (Matthew 11:28). He gave them His joy (John 15:11; 17:13). He gave them the keys to His kingdom (Matthew 16:19; Luke 12:32). He ultimately gives them His Spirit.
* He gave them His own glory that was His before the world began that they all might be one even as He was one with the Father (John 17:22,24). Jesus gave all that He had; nothing was withheld, not even His own life.
* Dr. Robert Coleman translates John 17:19 like this: “For their sakes I continually—moment by moment—renew my commitment to the work of evangelism and I am willing to make every sacrifice necessary to accomplish this purpose of God for my life. I am asking the same of you. You will have to make a full commitment of **all that you are** and **all that you have** to God’s plan for world evangelism and keep it up every day of your lives.” (p. 125).
* Jesus said to Judas in John 14:27, “What you do, do quickly!” So Judas went into the night to prepare for his betrayal of Jesus. Jesus then gives His most detailed accounting of the Holy Spirit to the eleven in John 13:31-14:31 and John 16:5-15. Repeatedly, at least nine times in the Book of Acts it is stated that the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.
* Jesus then closes His time with the eleven by praying for them in His High Priestly Prayer of John 17. In that prayer He includes a prayer for us. The answer to Christ’s prayer was fulfilled at Pentecost and is recorded in Acts 2:1-13. Tongues as of fire were resting on each one of His disciples and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

**5. Demonstration** – John 13:15 – EE’s on-the-job training

* One of the things that makes EE stand out from all other evangelism ministries is that on-the-job training is an integral part of the process. Jesus didn’t just tell His disciples what to do. He showed them how to live.
* As EE trainers, we must show our trainees how to get in to a conversation,

how and when to include his or another person’s testimony, how to ask the questions, then show how to diagnose where that person is spiritually and finally be able to fit the gospel explanation to the needs of that person.

* In Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus gives them a pattern for prayer and illustrated the importance of a life of prayer again and again. More than 20 times in the gospels Jesus alludes to prayer. Unless the disciples learned how to practice prayer with consistency little would ever come of their lives.

**6. Delegation** – Matthew 4:19 – Assigning Parts of the Gospel

* A good EE trainer learns how to bring his trainee along by sharing bits and pieces of the gospel explanation until finally his or her trainee feels comfortable handling the entire visit, from start to finish.
* From the very beginning Jesus was always building in to His disciples for the time when they would be able to take over the work here on earth. His method was to get the disciples in to a vital experience with God, showing them how it all worked before commissioning them to do it in His absence.
* As Jesus was beginning His third general tour of Galilee (Mark 6:6; Matthew 9:35) He began involving His disciples more directly in the work. Now they needed to put in practice what they had seen Him do repeatedly.
* So it says, **“He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness”** (Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1,2).
* Like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly by pushing them out of the nest, Jesus pushed His disciples out into the world to try their own wings. Jesus gave them some brief instructions on their mission and then deployed them.

**7. Supervision** – Mark 6:30; Luke 10:17 – Report Back Session

* Jesus made it a point to be there for His disciples following the tours of service to hear their reports and share with them the blessedness of their ministry. Report back session either at you local EE ministry or in a clinic setting is vital to hear how covering their ministry with prayer and the actual on-the-job experiences had made an eternal difference in the lives of people.
* Listen to the disciples in Luke 10:17, **“The seventy returned with joy saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”** Notice what the supernatural eyesight of Jesus saw, **“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightening!”** So we can see how the real struggle in evangelism and discipleship is in the heavens as seen in Ephesians 6:12.

**8. Reproduction** – Luke 6:40 – An EE Trainer is the Result

* Jesus had built into His disciples the structure of a church that would challenge and triumph over all the powers of death and hell. So now the role of Jesus rotated between instruction and assignment which becomes now the role of a trainer who is fully trained.
* Luke 6:40 states, **“A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained will be like his teacher.”** Jesus disciples have taken on His likeness in His church all over the world. Praise His Holy name!