

The Model: Luke 6:12-13
When In Doubt Follow the Directions

C. S. Lewis Institute
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Greg Ogden

The Paradigm Shift Question: How can we grow self-initiating, reproducing disciples of Christ in our ministries?

I. A Personal Journey:

A. Negative Example:

B. Positive Example:

II. Why did Jesus focus on a few? (Luke 6:12-13)

A. **Internalization:** It was the only way to transfer his message and mission.

"This careful, painstaking education of the disciples secured the teacher's influence on this world should be permanent; that His kingdom should be founded on the rock of deep and indestructible convictions in the minds of a few, not on the shifting sands of *superficial* impressions in the minds of the many." -- A. B. Bruce

Causes of Superficiality

- Pastors/Leaders have been diverted from their call to equip the saints
- We have tried to make disciples through programs
- We have been too timid to call people to discipleship
- People have not been discipled

"Disciples cannot be massed produced. We cannot drop people into a program and see disciples emerge at the end of the production line. It takes time to make disciples. It takes individual personal attention." (Leroy Eims, *The Lost Art of Disciplemaking*.)

B. Multiplication: Jesus had enough vision to think small

"Jesus it must be remembered, restricted 9/10 of His ministry to 12 Jews because it was the only way to reach all Americans." --Eugene Peterson

"Perhaps today's pastor should imagine that they are going to have three more years in their parish as pastor--and that there will be no replacement for them when they leave. If they acted as if this were going to happen, they would then put the highest priority on selecting, motivating, and training lay leaders that could carry on the mission. The results of three sustained years of such an approach would be quite significant. Even revolutionary." --George Martin

What difference would this make?

III. What was Jesus approach?

A. The "with me" principle

B. How Jesus approach differed from the rabbis of his day

C. Jesus' stages of development: Situational Leadership

	PRE-DISCIPLE	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Jesus' role	The inviter	The living example	The provocative teacher	The supportive coach	The ultimate delegator
The disciples' role	Seekers	Observers and imitators	Students and questioners	Short-term missionaries	Apostles
Readiness level	Hungry to know whether Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah	Ready to observe who Jesus is and the nature of his ministry and mission	Ready to interact with Jesus and publicly identify with him	Ready to test the authority of Jesus to work through them	Ready to assume full responsibility for making reproducing disciples
Key questions	Is Jesus the Messiah?	Who is Jesus, and what is his ministry and mission?	What is the cost of following Jesus?	Will the power of Jesus work through us when we take on his ministry?	Will I give my life entirely to the mission of making reproducing disciples?

Application: What are the implications of Jesus' approach for how we should be making disciples in the local church?

