

3Thirds Discipleship Training Tools

Disciple Multiplication Movement (DMM)

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Abraham – RICO, Jonathan – faith, Paul – determination.

Be a Disciple Worth Reproducing

Disciple-making and church planting don't begin with a strategy; they begin with me.

Am I the person God called me to be?

David Watson.

For me, this has always been the most challenging part of this whole paradigm. I identify much more quickly with the sinner in the Temple beating his breast and asking for mercy, than I do with Ap Paul saying “imitate me as I imitate Christ.” Yet, that is our challenge as believers and the DMM paradigm drives that home.

I'd like to talk to you today about 3 different men and what we can learn from them.

Abraham. Radical Immediate Costly Obedience. RICO.

We know that God chose Abraham to be the Father of our faith. He'd be the father of many nations. His offspring would be as numerous as the stars or as the grains of sand – that's a lot of multiplication.

And God says twice why He picked Abraham. “I chose Abraham because he obeys Me.” In the Bible obedience is almost always connected to love.

In John you can see this pattern clearly. “If you love Me you will obey what I command.” In 1 John “this is love for God, that we obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome.” It's not from obligation or duty, it's out of gratitude. So the Great Command is “Love God with all...”

So if love is obedience, we should be characterized by radical, immediate, costly obedience.

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In Ab's life we can see this pattern even though he did some bad things.

But his life was characterized by RICO.

We're first introduced to Ab in Gen 11. Talks about grandfather, and father.

So his father left Ur to go to Canaan, got to Ur, stopped and settled there.

Then in Gen 12 God calls him to leave his country, and his fathers household. And go to a land that God would show him. He's grown up in two of the biggest cities in the world. And he's being told to live in tents in the wilderness, leaving family, safety, security, familiarity, comfort, in order to go live a nomadic life... He doesn't hesitate, he immediately obeys.

(4 So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.)

RICO.

Gen 17 same thing. Tells him covenant circumcision. Abram is now 99 years old. Name changes from Abram to Abraham because the covenant comes into effect. Obviously there's physical sacrifice involved in circumcision, but there's a safety issue. His great grandchildren kill an entire tribe after they get circumcised. But the very day God commanded him he obeyed, himself, his son Ishmael, and every male born in his household, and every male he bought and then it repeats (vs 23) ***"that very day"***

They've been waiting 24 years at this point.

Abraham laughed.

Sarai laughed. They decided to name him "Isaac" which means laughter. Sarai's name is changed to "Sarah" which means "princess". So he says, I want everyone circumcised and I want y'all to call my wife "princess".

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Same pattern in Gen 21. Ishmael begins to mock Isaac. Sara becomes upset. This troubled him. It greatly distressed him. I've got 4 kids - it'd kill me to do this. But God says, "listen to Sara." Through Isaac your seed will come. I'll care for Ishmael, and make him a great nation. Abraham rose ***Vs 14 early the next morning*** and gave water to Hagar and Ishmael and sent them away. RICO.

(14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and gave her the boy, and sent her away.)

Gen 22 God asks Ab to sacrifice Isaac. This is the son of the promise. He's waited 100 years for this boy, his entire life is bound up in this child. He could have said "Yes Lord, but bring back Ishmael. Or yes Lord if Sara agrees, or yes Lord when You give me another. " But no, ***Vs 3. "Early the next morning"*** he arose, saddled the donkeys, got firewood and set out for the mountain. We know at the last second God stopped him. That God provided a ram as a substitute. Abraham didn't know that. He was ready to obey. RICO.

(3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.)

This is what God means when He says "I chose Ab because he obeys me." Ab loved God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength and expressed it through his obedience. I believe God still wants our love expressed in this way.

"I believe that that is the kind of disciple God delights to multiply."

It's not that God won't use us if we don't have that level of obedience. God uses anyone, He used Balaams donkey. But if we have anything less than that level, we must aspire to that level of love, until we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength as demonstrated by RICO.

Abraham demonstrates faith that manifests itself in obedience.