

Portrait of a Disciple Maker

Acts 11:20-26

Jerry Tu



Background

This week we conclude a short 2-sermon series on *Discipleship through Relationship*. Last week we looked at how Jesus disciplined his followers, sharing life and modeling his way to them. This week, we'll focus on some practical aspects of disciple making. What are the steps of making disciples? What spiritual gifts are helpful for a mentor or discipler? What biblical example may we follow? We'll explore these and other questions by looking at the portrait of a disciple maker in the Bible. Who is it? Come on Sunday to find out!

Sermon Text: Acts 11:20-26 (ESV)

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

2. Sunday questions (pick 3?)

- a. Do you have a mentor in the faith? What specifically did that person do to mentor you? Have you ever thanked that person? If not, maybe you can thank them this week?
- b. Are you yourself mentoring anyone? What specifically are you doing to mentor that person?
- c. Do you think you can see and recognize God's grace in the lives of the imperfect believers that God has placed in your life? Why or why not?
- d. What mis-steps would you say you have made (or may have made) in disciple-making?
- e. Of Jerry's applications/exhortations below, which one would you most like the Spirit to grow in your life? Make that your prayer this week.

Jerry's applications / exhortations

Applications / Exhortations

- Look for God's Grace in others
- Encourage and build up
- Invest in relationships
- Train, set stage for others
- Step back and support