

How to Change the World Part Two

Introduction: Last time we studied the subject we looked at ourselves. We stressed the necessity to correct ourselves first before we tried to correct others. We stressed the importance of thought and how it is the beginning of anything we wish to accomplish. Today we take the next step. We will begin to examine Jesus and His ministry. He is our example in all things and should be our guide in this subject above all others.

I. Selection (*Luke 6:13*)

A. He concentrated the majority of His teaching on a few

1. John 1:35-42, 43-51, Mark 1:19, 4:21, 2:13-14
2. He did not neglect the masses and some of the ones not chosen went on to do great things (*The Seventy, Mark, Jesus brother James cf. I Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 2:9, 12, John 2:12, 7:2-10*)

B. These few were willing to learn (*Acts 4:13*)

1. They weren't priests, lawyers, or leaders in general
2. They were impulsive, temperamental, easily offended, etc. (*Luke 9:51-54, John 18:10-11, Luke 22:33, Matthew 16:22*)
3. They were willing to learn. God will use anyone who is willing to be used.
4. The teaching was individual specific and they had the opportunity to observe the teachings first hand.

C. "Masses" are like sheep (*Mark 6:34, Matthew 9:36, 14:14*)

1. A leadership had to be in place to keep everyone on target
2. Victory is never won by the masses
3. It takes more time but it has longevity

II. Association (*Matthew 28:20*)

A. He spent a lot of time with them! (*John 15:27*)

1. This was simple, but very effective!
 - a) It was a contrast to the teaching of the day (*I Corinthians 1:20-25*)
 - b) It was not an outward conformity, but an inward change (*John 18:19*)
2. They learned through observation (*Luke 8:10, John 14:5-6, John 1:39, 43, 46, Mark 1:17, 2:14, Matthew 4:19, 9:9, Luke 5:10, 27*)
3. They had to spend time with him (*Mark 3:14, Luke 6:13*)

B. As time went on, He spent more time

1. He frequently took them to secluded places to train individually (*Mark 7:24, 31, 8:10, 27*)
2. He spent months at a time sometimes (*Mark 10:1-52*)
3. After His Resurrection He spent more time with Him

C. He did not neglect the masses

1. They could observe how He dealt with the masses (*Matthew 14:14, 15:32-39*)
2. They could observe how He dealt with opposition (*Matthew 23*)
3. They could observe how He dealt with converts (*John 4:39-42*)

D. The church is a family

1. Children are not raised by proxy

2. Removing the negative is not enough, the positive must be added

Conclusion: These are two very important steps! They are very simple steps, but often these are the most neglected! This is the foundation to all the efforts for the future. Without these two steps the church would have never grown like it did in Acts 2.