

For the past forty-eight hours I've been trying to come up with what to write for Walking Dusty. As I reread chapter five, I realized that Jesus' message to us is very simple, but I am trying to make it too complicated: We are to go and make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey Jesus' commands.

Dan did a great job describing Jesus' example of discipleship as simple yet complex, beautiful yet messy. He shared Xavier's story: a young man on campus sharing Jesus with others. It was great to hear that his Bible study has outgrown his dorm room! And Dan reminded us what the mission for 1Mosaic is: Love, Live, and Lead like Jesus. In addition, our book gave several examples of people making disciples in their workplace, their community, and around the world. But we are not "to go" in order that we might complete a required religious pilgrimage, and it's not a prerequisite to be saved. We go because we want to tell others what God has done for us. We want to share our story and our faith.

There was an article in Sunday's PARADE magazine that highlighted a father and his two sons, age 9 and 14. They are traveling to six continents to volunteer in a different country every month for a year. They decided to go after the fourteen-year-old asked, "Dad, we have this cool life, how come we aren't doing more to make a difference in this world?" Nowhere in the article did it say they are going to share Christ, but it's an honorable adventure that's sure to impact many lives and their own hearts. I can't afford a trip like that but it made me think: What if each of us as Christ-followers picked one place around the world and invested our lives there as much and as often as we could? What if we shared that passion with others? What if our passion sparked a desire in someone else to go and serve somewhere? I think we'd begin to see the exponential growth that Dan talked about, and we'd start to see the impact of God working through us as we serve around the world. Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

### Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus told us to make disciples and teach them to love God and others. Am I willing to share my story?

Platt describes his conversation with a Sudanese friend and said, "He really believed that in obeying Jesus' command to make disciples, he was going to impact the world." (*Radical*, p. 86) What do I believe about obeying Jesus' command to make disciples? Am I obeying? Do I want to impact the world?

"How do we make God's glory known in all nations? If God has given us his grace so that we might take his gospel to the ends of the earth, then how do we do that? Do we walk out into the streets and just

start proclaiming the glory of God somehow? Should we all go to other nations? If we go, what do we do when we get there? What does all this look like in our day-to-day lives?" (p. 87)

Platt mentions Jesus' prayer in John 17 where He recounts His ministry in the world and is surprised that Jesus doesn't mention all His miracles. He says, "Instead he talks repeatedly about the small group of men God had given him out of the world. They were the work God had given to him. They were, quite literally, his life." (p. 89) What is the work God has given me to do? What does my life revolve around?

Platt said, "The megastrategy of Jesus: make disciples." (p. 90) What do you think is the strategy for today's Christian church in the U.S.? Around the world? Is it working? How do you know?

"But according to Jesus, people are God's method for winning the world to himself. People who have been radically transformed by Jesus." (p. 90) Have I been radically transformed by something? Do I know someone that's been radically transformed by Jesus? From outward appearances, what would others say I have been radically transformed by?

Why is working with people messy? (p. 93)

In regard to having a desire to learn God's Word, Platt writes "What can I get out of this? How can I listen to his Word so that I am equipped to teach this Word to others?" (p. 102)

When describing the typical American Christian, Platt wrote, "We live decent lives in decent homes with decent jobs and decent families as decent citizens." Doesn't that sound like being a good American? Isn't that what most Americans are striving for? Platt continues, "We are decent church members with little more impact on the world than we had before we were saved." (p. 105) Ouch. Is being decent what I'm striving for? What else is there?

From Dan's message: Are you in the safe box or in the world? What does God need to change in your heart right now? Who has God put before you to make disciples? Will you disciple them? Will you understand the purpose and power that God has given? How do you need to love, live, and lead like Jesus this week? Are we known for what we do or don't do?

***This month's memory verse:*** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." *Matthew 28: 19-20*

***Additional verses:*** *John 17, Matthew 28, 2 Timothy 1:7-9, 2:2, James 1:22-24, Galatians 6:9*

#### **Reminders:**

2.12.12 The Gathering at SHU at 10am!!! Radical – chapter 6

2.19.12 The Gathering at SHU at 10am!!! Radical – chapter 7

2.26.12 The Gathering at SHU at 10am!!! Radical – chapter 8 & 9

\*\*\* 4 the City Event . . . Serve & Bless the Catherine Cobb Center – more info TBA \*\*\*