

## **Discipleship: A Developmental Process**

**Luke 9:1-17**

### **1. Deployment Vs 1-6**

Jesus' previously called and trained disciples were now supernaturally equipped and deployed to share in Jesus' saving ministry with instructions to trust in God's provisioning and to expect mixed results.

*Deployment into Jesus' saving ministry, which produces mixed results, is preceded by submission to Jesus' call, training, and the Spirit's equipping and engaging with trust in God's provisioning God's work.*

### **2. Disturbances Vs 7-9**

The disciples' multiple ministries made Jesus so famous that even Herod, the regional governor who opposed God's unfolding saving plans, was disturbed enough to want to see who Jesus really was.

*Imagine the spiritual disturbance and interest in Jesus generated in this city if we all submitted to being trained, equipped and deployed to faithfully share in Jesus' saving ministry.*

### **3. Debriefing Vs 10-11a**

The disciples returned to Jesus and debriefed with him about their ministry and then withdrew with the Lord in anticipation of a time of physical and spiritual renewal.

*Healthy discipleship involves periodic times of debriefing and respite for the deployed, times when they can share how things are going and have their strength renewed.*

### **4. Difficulties Vs 11b-14a**

Although the disciples' faith blossomed during their successful engagement in Gospel ministry, it had disastrously floundered when it came to trusting God to feed five thousand from their meagre provisions.

*Difficulties encountered during our deployment will expose personal weak spots in our discipleship and/or overwhelm our faith in God's ongoing provisioning; weak spots that could sideline us from Gospel ministry.*

## **5. Development Vs 14b-17**

Jesus gave his disciples a role in satisfying the crowd's hunger so they could see his trust in God's provisioning abundantly rewarded to reinforce their faith in God's promised provisioning.

*Discipleship is a developmental process in which weaknesses exposed during deployment and surface during debriefing are addressed through additional training and reinforcement before redeployment.*

**Discipleship (sharing in Jesus' saving ministry) is a developmental process in which those Jesus calls are trained, equipped, deployed, repetitively debriefed/renewed/reinforced as necessary and redeployed.**

### **Questions**

1. Why is it important that you know that in spite of your training, supernatural equipping and divine provisioning, you will see mixed responses to your sharing in Jesus' saving ministry?
2. How will knowing that God provisions his work help you this week as you hit the road to live for Jesus?
3. In which of the following could you use some help to be renewed in before heading back into the fray?
  - Spiritual
  - Emotional
  - Physical
  - IntellectualIf more than one, which feels the most critical today?  
Are you going to seek a more mature believer to help you?
4. Is there a particular weakness in discipleship that difficulties have exposed that you need to debrief with a coach and find help with?
5. Have you effectively been sidelined from the race of sharing in Jesus' saving ministry?

6. Will you prayerfully consider taking the 'How to be a Discipleship Coach' this fall to help us fulfill our purpose of making mature multiplying disciples?