

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

May 21, 2010—The Jesus Way—Discipleship-I

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts—Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” —Jesus (John 14:6)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ways of Jesus <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Abraham—A faith life b) Jacob—A man who wrestled with God c) Joseph—From slave to ruler 2) Constituent Parts of Disciple-making (Luke 9:23; Matthew 28:18-20) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Follow b) Baptize c) Teach to observe My commands d) What “tasks” do these things entail? 3) How Are <i>You</i> Called to Participate in Disciple-making? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Philippians 3:17 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) How are you called to be a disciple? b) Ephesians 4:11-13 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Who are you called to minister to? c) Mark 1:38 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) What is your personal calling statement? <p>Living from the heart Jesus gave you means you are being the person you were designed to be. You are acting like yourself. The heart is the place of spiritual discernment where you know who you are. When you are living from your heart, you are following an inner directive that, if governed by the Spirit of God keeps you on the path that is spiritually attuned to you. You are following God’s leading.</p> <p>Through our hearts we see ourselves as God sees us. The hearts Jesus gives are like His own only smaller, with certain characteristics of His in greater quantity than others. In our staff we find one heart is more kind, another long-suffering, a third gives while another restores. Made in God’s image, each heart resonates with God’s character, but demonstrates some specific aspects of Jesus’ personality more intensely than others. It takes a group of us to demonstrate God’s diversity as each one of us reveals a different bit of God’s craftsmanship.</p> <p>Our heart of life is the life of the spirit, since it is through our hearts that we know spiritual truth. Spiritual sight from the “heart Jesus gave you” is necessary to discover the unique God-given features we call the “characteristics of your heart.” Because the Lord has handcrafted you for a</p>

very specific purpose in His kingdom (Ephesians 2:10), your heart has been fitted to meet that mission. As you live increasingly from your heart, and according to your heart design, these “characteristics of your heart” will become more evident to you and to others as well. These characteristics of your heart reveal your mission.

One sign that you have found the characteristic of you heart is when your passion, purpose, talents, and pain all come together and begin defining who you are.¹ (This is Clinton’s phase 5 “convergence.”)

- d) Aspects of Jesus’ heart—we each contain these, one or more will be more intense for you²
 - i) The contemplative tradition: discovering the prayer filled life
 - (1) Psalm 42:1-2a
 - (2) A longing for a richer, fuller practice of the presence of God
 - ii) The holiness tradition: discovering the virtuous life
 - (1) 1Timothy 4:7b-8
 - (2) Focuses on the inward re-formation of the heart and the development of holy habits
 - iii) The charismatic tradition: discovering the spirit-empowered life
 - (1) Ephesians 5:18a-19
 - (2) Focuses on the empowering gifts of the Spirit and the nurturing fruit of the Spirit
 - iv) The social justice tradition: discovering the compassionate life
 - (1) Amos 5:24
 - (2) Focuses on justice and shalom in all human relationships and social structures
 - v) The evangelical tradition: discovering the word-centered life
 - (1) John 11:25-26
 - (2) Enabled by the power of God to take the word of the gospel into our hearts in such a transforming way that others, seeing this, want it for themselves
 - vi) The incarnational tradition: discovering the sacramental life
 - (1) 2Corinthians 4:7
 - (2) Focuses upon making present and visible the invisible realm of the Spirit; to experience God as truly manifest and notoriously active in daily life
- 4) Where We Are As Leaders—Clinton’s Stages of Leadership Development³

Effective spiritual ministry flows out of being, and God is concerned with our being...My students and I have studied hundreds of lives from three categories: historic, biblicla, and contempory. As we’ve compared findings from these studies, we’ve gained insights that are transferrable to other leaders’ lives...While [this generalization] rarely fits anyone exactly, it does give perspective.⁴

¹ *Living From the Heart Jesus Gave You*. 112, 113.

² *Streams of Living Waters*. Ch 2-7.

³ *The Making of a Leader*. Chapter 2.

⁴ *Ibid*. 13-14, 43.

Phase I—Sovereign foundations

- a) God’s providential work in you through family, friends, enemies, environment, and historical events.
- b) God is sovereignly developing the leader by laying foundations in his or her life.
- c) There may be little spiritual input during this time.

Phase II—Inner life growth

- a) Leader learns the importance of praying to and hearing God.
- b) God tests the leader providing crucial experiences to prepare the leader and to test the leader’s character.
- c) Proper, godly responses allows the leader to learn the lessons intended by God, resulting in expanding ministry and increased responsibility.
- d) If the person doesn’t learn, God will continue to test him or her in the same areas.

Phase III—Ministry maturing

- a) The emerging leader begins to experiment with spiritual gifts.
- b) May seek formal training.
- c) Ministry is the focus.
- d) God developing the leader in two ways:
 - i) Through ministry to better understand gifting and skills.
 - ii) Through relationship experiences in Body life.

NOTE: Ministry activity or fruitfulness is not the focus of phases I, II, or III. God is working primarily *in* the leader, not *through* him or her. Many emerging leaders don’t understand this, and become frustrated. They are constantly evaluating productivity and activities, while God is quietly evaluating their leadership potential.⁵

Phase IV—Life maturing

- a) The leader has identified his or her spiritual gifts in a ministry that is satisfying and gains a sense of prioritization in ministry.
- b) “Ministry flowing out of being” has a new significance.
- c) Communion with God becomes foundational as God develops the leader’s experiential understanding of God.
- d) The key to continued development is a positive response to the experiences God ordains, which results in deeper communion with God.

Phase V—Convergence

- a) God moves the leader into a role that matches his or her gift-mix and experience so that ministry is maximized.
- b) Life maturing and ministry maturing peak together here allowing the leader to use the best of what he or she has to offer, freeing him or her from other ministry for which one is not gifted.
- c) It is critical that the leader consistently respond to God’s guidance.

⁵ *Ibid.* 45-46.

	<p>d) Some do not reach this phase:</p> <p>i) Own lack of development;</p> <p>ii) Organizational limitations; or</p> <p>iii) God’s providence.</p> <p>Phase VI—Afterglow or Celebration</p> <p>a) “For the very few”</p> <p>b) Leaders are recognized for their lifetime of following God and are sought out for their storehouse of wisdom, which the leader uses to continue to encourage and bless many.</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer
7:00 – ??	If you would like prayer, please come up front and one or more of us will remain to pray with you.

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
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