

CELL NOTES
for Andrew Price's talk on 11 March 2007

DISCIPLESHIP

1. Historical context; discipleship was widely understood and practised in Jesus' day

- ◆ The job of a disciple was to become like his Rabbi ("everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher" Luke 6:40)
- ◆ Disciples had 4 tasks
 - i. to learn their master's words
 - ii. to learn their master's traditions and interpretations
 - iii. to imitate their master's actions
 - iv. to raise up disciples for themselves
- ◆ Jesus called his disciples in this context, but he was a Rabbi with a difference
 - i. He taught women
 - ii. He taught the crowds
 - iii. He served his disciples ("I am among you as one who serves" Luke 22: 25-27)

2. The Nature of Discipleship - holistic, relational and incarnational

- ◆ **Holistic - Discipleship is a life path, not an education**
 - i. Modern, Western education tends to separate knowing from doing and to elevate knowing above doing
 - ii. In contrast The Jewish wisdom tradition (as expressed in books like Proverbs and Ecclesiastes) is about how to live
 - iii. Wisdom was practical (Exodus 28:3) e.g. Solomon's wisdom was expressed in practical decisions
 - iv. Discipleship is about how I live, not just what I know (1 Cor 13)
Discipleship embraces the whole person
- ◆ **Relational** - because discipleship is about how we live the whole of our lives, we develop as disciples in the context of relationships that touch all aspects of our lives
 - i. First question from his first two disciples (John 1:38) is "where are you staying". They understood that to be a disciple meant to follow and share experiences with the Rabbi
 - ii. At the heart of discipleship is a living, breathing relationship with Jesus.....and with other disciples
 - iii. Jesus said that the evidence of discipleship was whether we can love one another (John 13:35)

- ◆ **Incarnational – Our message is our life.** Discipleship is about embodying the knowledge of God.
 - i. God did not send rules and precepts, he sends a person – Jesus. He didn't just tell us how to be saved, he sent Salvation. Didn't explain truth, he sent Jesus who is truth (John 14:6). Now he sends us!
 - ii. The message of the disciple is expressed in their whole life. Jesus sent out the apostles and said "he who receives you, receives me" (Matt10:40). He was confident that his message was embodied in these people. Receiving a disciple of Jesus into your life is the same as receiving Jesus!

3. **The challenge for us.**

- ◆ Becoming a Christian is a journey. Deciding to believe in Jesus is just the start. That journey is called Discipleship

4. **Discussion – choose questions that seem most relevant to your group**

- ◆ Discipleship only happens in the context of a living, developing relationship with Jesus. If our relationship has become dry or superficial, what should we do?
- ◆ Discipleship also happens in the context of relationships with other disciples. How do we allow this to happen? What gets in the way?
- ◆ Our message is our life – our priorities, our attitude, our spending, how we treat people etc. If someone watched a video of your life for the last year, but with the sound turned off, what would they assume was your message, your belief about life?