

## Man / Woman of Peace

I. Finding "worthy men" ("men of peace/honor") note: "man" is used in the generic sense, and includes women.

Jesus' work in this world is to build His Church (Matt. 16:18); and He commanded his followers to participate with Him in this work (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; etc.). One question which arises, as we participate with God in His work of calling people into His Kingdom and establishing them in churches, is who should we focus on, in our evangelistic and discipling efforts? Who should we invest our time with? What kind of people does God use to establish His Church (especially in new areas)? This study attempts to address these questions from the Gospels, Acts and the Epistles.

### Week #1: "Worthy Men (Women)" / "Men (Women) of Peace"

Day #1: Matthew 10:11-14; Luke 10:2, 5-12, 16

1. What kind of person does Jesus tell his disciples to look for as they go out to advance His Kingdom? Why? (cf. Matthew 28:18-20)
2. What is a "worthy man (woman)" / "man (woman) of peace" like (What characteristics)?

Day #2: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-40

1. What are some characteristics of a "worthy man (woman)" (cf. Matt. 16:24-26)?
2. How do "worthy men (women)" respond to Jesus' disciples as they preach His Word? How do they respond to Jesus? How do they respond to persecution?

Day #3: Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

1. What are some characteristics of "worthy men (women)"?
2. How do "worthy men (women)" respond to Jesus and the Good News of the Kingdom?
3. How do they differ from other people in their response to the Word of God?

Day #4: Luke 7:1-10

1. Was the Centurion a "worthy man" ("man of peace")?
2. How did the people view him?
3. How did he respond to Jesus? How did Jesus respond to him?

Luke 14:25-33

1. Were all of the people traveling with Jesus, "men (women) of peace"?
2. What kind of people was Jesus looking for? What kind of response did he desire?
3. Matthew 13:53-58
4. Were the people of Jesus' hometown "worthy"? Why or why not?

Day #5: Luke 19:1-10

1. Is Zacchaeus an example of a "man of peace"? Why / how?
2. How did he respond to Jesus?

Matthew 19:16-29

1. Was the rich young man "worthy"? Why or why not?
2. How did he differ from Zacchaeus in his response to Jesus?
3. What does it mean (require) to be "worthy" of Jesus?

## **Week #2: Examples of "Worthy Men/Women" ("Men/Women of Peace")**

Consider whether the following people represent "worthy men (women)" ("men/women of peace"). Think about the following questions:

1. What were they like before they met Jesus?
2. How did they respond to Jesus' disciples (i.e., those who were preaching the Good News)?
3. How did they respond to Jesus?
4. What did they do after they believed? Did they contribute to the spread of the Kingdom/the building of the Church? How?

Day #1: Acts 2:36-47 Those who responded to Peter's message  
Acts 5:1-14 Ananias & Sapphira

Day #2: Acts 8:9-24 Simon the Sorcerer  
Acts 8:26-39 Ethiopian Official

Day #3: Acts 10:1-48 Cornelius  
Acts 13:6-12 Bar?Jesus (Elymus), the Proconsul

Day #4: Acts 16:13-15, 40 Lydia  
Acts 16:29-34 Philippian jailer  
Acts 17:4-7 Jason  
Acts 18:1-4, 26 Priscilla & Aquila (Romans 16:3-5)  
Acts 18:7-8 Titius Justus, Crispus (1 Cor. 1:14)

Day #5: 1 Corinthians 16:15-18 Stephanas (1 Cor. 1:16)  
1 Thessalonians 1:4-9; 2:13-14 The Church of the Thessalonians

Day #6: Philemon 1-25 Philemon, Archippus (v. 2), Onesimus (v. 16)

See also:

John 3:1-10; 7:50-51; 19:38-42 Nicodemus  
John 4:4-30, 39-42 Samaritan woman  
John 5:1-15 the invalid by the pool  
John 6:60-71 the crowd of "disciples" (v. 66); the Twelve; Judas  
John 7:1-5 Jesus' brothers  
John the blind man  
John 10:22-3 the Jews in the temple area  
John 12:1-11 Lazarus, Mary and Martha

## **Week #3: Evangelizing "Worthy Men (Women)"**

As you consider the following passages, and in light of the previous studies on "worthy men (women)" / "men (women) of peace," think about the following questions:

1. How did Jesus "evangelize"? Did he try to make it "easy" for people, or "hard"? Why?
2. How should we "evangelize"?
3. What are we offering people? On what terms? What are we calling them to/from?
4. Can we evangelize in a way that tests people to see if they are "worthy"/"men of peace"? How?

Day #1: Matt. 4:17-23 (cf. Lk. 8:1)

Day #2: Matt. 11:27-30 (cf. Jn. 7:37-38); Lk. 4:18-19

Day #3: Matt. 7:13-14, 24-27 (cf. Lk. 13:23-27); Matt. 19:16-21

Day #4: Luke 9:18-26 (cf. Matt. 16:13-26)

Day #5: Luke 9:57-62; John 6:60-69 (cf. Jn. 6:37-39, 44; 10:26-27)

## APPLICATION

Jesus was very clear in giving his disciples instructions about the kind of people with whom they should invest their time and energy, as they went out as His servants to work with Him for the advancement of the Kingdom of God (through the establishment of churches). As you reflect on the work you are doing, consider the following questions:

a. Are we focusing our evangelistic efforts on finding "worthy men (women)" / "men (women) of peace"? What kind of people do we spend time with? What are some of the likely characteristics of "worthy men (women)" / "men (women) of peace" in the culture within which we are working? Are we focusing your evangelistic efforts on this kind of men and women?

b. Are we evangelizing in the way that Jesus did? Are we calling people to follow Jesus as wholly? Committed disciples? Are we evangelizing in a way that is likely to test people to find those who are "worthy" of Jesus?

## **Apostolic Ministry (Church Planting)**

Stages in the Work: Gathering

II. Discipling "worthy men" ("men of peace/honor) note "man" is used in the generic sense, and includes women)

Once someone has entered the Kingdom (embraced Christ), what do we do then? Who should we focus our discipling efforts on? What is discipling? Toward what end should we disciple someone? How can we disciple a "worthy man (woman)" to be the kind of person Jesus wants him (her) to be?

In looking at the following passages of Scripture, consider these questions:

- A. What is Jesus' purpose for his disciples?
- B. What does it mean for a person to be a disciple of Jesus? What are the characteristics of a disciple of Jesus? What must a disciple of Jesus be? What must he do?
- C. What does it mean to "disciple" someone in Christ? What do we need to do? To what end?
- D. What are some of the principles of discipleship/discipling?
- E. What is "reproduction" (bearing fruit)? What is the relationship between reproduction and discipling? Who needs to reproduce? How? What is the significance of reproduction, in God's work?

Training objectives for disciples:

1. Live as obedient disciple of Jesus, embodying & displaying the Good News
  - Love God with whole heart
  - Become man/woman of the Word
  - Live transformed life
  - Love others
2. Bring Jesus to others / others to Jesus? Penetrate social circle with the Gospel.
3. Disciple others who believe (pass on what he is learning).
4. (For some) look after others in church context (shepherd, lead).

Week #1:

Day #1: Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 1:17

Day #2: The call to obedience, to whole-hearted discipleship  
Matt. 7:21-24; 12:48-50; 10:32-33, 37-39; 16:24-25 (e.g., Lk. 9:57-62; 14:25-33)

Day #3: The call to follow Jesus' example, live a transformed life (impt. of the Word)  
John 10:27; 13:15-17; 8:12; 8:31-36

Day #4: The call to live a life of repentance and transformation, learning to love God & others  
Acts 26:17-20; Eph. 2:1-10; 4:22-24; Matt. 22:36-40 (cf. Jn. 13:34-35)

Day #5: The call to bear fruit, through abiding in Jesus & His Word  
John 15:1-8, 16; Luke 8:15

Week #2:

Day #1: The call to minister with Jesus, to spread His Kingdom  
Mark 3:13-15; Matt. 9:35-10:1, 5-8; 12:28-30; John 4:34-36; 17:18; 20:21

Day #2: Examples - John 1:40-46; Acts 4:18-20, 33; 5:28-29, 42; 8:4-5; 11:19-21; Phil. 1:5

Day #3: The call to bear fruit by discipling others? 2 Timothy 2:2; Matt. 25:14-30

Day #4: Discipleship in the Church context? Acts 2:36-47 (cf. 11:20-26; 14:21-23)  
In what context does God mean for disciples of Jesus to grow and develop as they follow him? What is the significance of the Church for followers of Jesus?

Day #5: Discipleship in the Church context  
Eph. 1:22-23; 2:17-22; 3:10; 4:12; 5:29; 1 Tim. 3:15; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 14:12, 26  
In what context does God mean for disciples of Jesus to grow and develop as they follow him? What is the significance of the Church for followers of Jesus?

Week #3

As you study the following passages, consider these questions:

1. In their ministry, how did Timothy and Titus demonstrate the qualities of "faithful men"?
2. On what kind of person did Paul exhort Timothy to focus his discipling efforts? Why?
3. What are some of the characteristics of "faithful men (women)"?
4. What makes such men (women) the kind through whom Jesus can build His Church?
5. How do "faithful men (women)" differ from people who are not "faithful men"?
6. What should we be aiming at in discipling "faithful men (women)"?
7. How can we know if someone is a "faithful man (woman)" or not?
8. What kinds of qualities are necessary in those who will provide leadership to the Church?

Day #1: 2 Timothy 2:2 (cf. Matthew 28:18-20)  
1 Tim. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 4:2

Day #2: 1 Timothy 3:1-15 (for contrast see 2 Tim. 3:1-9; Jude 3-19)

Day #3: 1 Timothy 5:1-16

Day #4: Titus 1:5-9 (for contrast see Titus 1:10-16)

Day #5: Titus 2:1-3:2

## APPLICATION

Jesus was very clear in giving his disciples instructions about the kind of people with whom they should invest their time and energy, as they went out as His servants to work with Him for the

advancement of the Kingdom of God (through the establishment of churches). As you reflect on the work you are doing, consider the following questions:

Are you focusing your discipling efforts on "men (women) of peace" / "worthy men (women)" / "faithful men (women)," who are committed disciples of Jesus, experiencing the life? Transforming power of the Gospel, faithfully living in obedience to all that they learn, passing on the life and teachings of Jesus to others around them? i.e., Are you investing in the kind of men and women through whom Jesus can build His church?

Specific studies which may be used in discipling new believers:

- Entering the Kingdom & Living in the Kingdom
- Life in the Spirit
- Marriage & Parenting
- Evangelism