

## **Principles for the Church that is Serious about Disciple-Making**

Developed by Bob Young

In Luke 1 is an interesting narrative about events which preceded the birth of Jesus. This is the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner who points to the one who is to come. John the Baptist is also called a prophet. Today we need prophets (not in the miraculous sense). We also need genuine disciples.

Note the characteristics of the home into which John the Baptist was born and consider them as characteristics of the church that is serious about disciple-making.

The church that is serious about making disciples will be characterized by....

### **\*1 An environment of radical faith**

Look at Zechariah and Elizabeth and tell me their faith was not radical

Radical faith is the only kind of faith there is

Radical faith talks differently; faith sees the world differently

Radical faith depends on God's guarantees

Radical faith is not about possibilities, but the guarantee of the promise by God's power

### **\*2 A sense of spiritual purpose in life**

See the spiritual purpose in the story

Wrong to baptize people and leave them with no sense of their purpose. We have missed this aspect of discipling. If we are not going to continue to "teach them to observe," we must include spiritual purpose in the discipling process prior to baptism.

The church will not develop people with spiritual purpose in life unless the church itself is first characterized by a sense of spiritual purpose

Purpose may be seen in how we pray, plan, plead, prepare

A sense of purpose instills Christian identity and purpose

### **\*3 A sense of hope for meaningful ministry**

See how hope is modeled (Lk 1:67)

The church that is serious about disciple-making is involved in ministry

That ministry focus gives new disciples something to do and a place to be involved

### **\*4 Focus on Jesus continually**

We can only point people to Jesus if we have been pointed to Jesus

We have trouble focusing on Jesus, because that is not the direction/center of our life.

### **\*5 Intentionally different**

We are afraid to be different. We try to be like the folks down the street.

We want to be respectable, but that is not the atmosphere for calling disciples

How can we proclaim a radically different message if we look and live like the world?