

Whoever finds his life will
lose it, and whoever loses
his life for my sake will
find it.
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

October 19, 2007— The Great Commission: Discipleship—Part X

6:00 – 6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coffee & Donuts 2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Learning to see through the eyes of Christ¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Growing to be Christ-like <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) It's a process—our progress is a gift from God ii) Example of a marriage relationship—communication & communion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Spouses become like each other because of their love for each other (2) Increasingly infrequent asking “what do you want me to do?” and growing confidence to act because of our increasing intimacy b) Video clip—<i>Eragon</i> c) To see through the eyes of Christ is to see our <i>relationships</i> differently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Worldview shift <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) God (2) Ourselves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) False self—Grounded in nothingness for we cannot be like God without God. <i>The false self, sensing its fundamental unreality, begins to convince itself that it is what it does. Hence, the more it does, achieves, and experiences, the more real it becomes.</i> (Finley, 38) (b) True self—Grounded in God. <i>The discovery of the true self in God takes place in the daily unfolding of Christian life. It is obscurely revealed to us in faith through selfless service to others and in the inner desert of wordless prayer.</i> (Finley, 37) (3) Our neighbors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>It is the Spirit that allows us to see that to love another is to love Christ. Love for God and love for others are not two loves, but rather two manifestations of one love.</i> (Findley, 64-65) (4) Creation d) Reconciliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) All creation rebels against <i>us</i> because <i>we</i> are out of place in God's creation ii) Only in Christ are we reconciled—<i>we</i> are the prodigal son <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <i>Our journey to find our true self in God is the earnest journey of the prodigal son back to his father's house</i> (Finley, 40)

2) Teach my disciples to obey my commands—The Art of Obedience²

Father: Son, take out the trash.

Son: Father, I would rather gaze into your magnificence for all eternity.

Our daily life and our prayer quickly reveals to us that our life in Christ is a life becoming. Christ is the door that leads to life, but we ourselves must walk through that door by sharing in his death in order to share in his life. This calls for a daily and sometimes arduous struggle, a daily carrying of our own cross which is, above all, our own deeply seated rebellion against God... (Finley, 28-29)

a) Barriers (Look for our false selves)³

- i) Pride (considered the original and most serious of the seven deadly sins, and indeed the ultimate source from which the others arise)
 - (1) Thinking ourselves as better than we are and better than others
 - (2) Condemning ourselves for not being as good as we think we ought to be
- ii) Greed (excessive or insatiable desire for wealth or other gain)
 - (1) Rockefeller: one dollar more than I have
 - (2) Just one more sermon, book, wise counsel...
- iii) Lust (obsessive or excessive thoughts or desires of a sexual nature)
 - (1) Fornication, rape, bestiality, perversion, adultery, pornography, including our thoughts of these...
- iv) Anger
 - (1) Ease of irritation over the imperfections of others
- v) Gluttony (over-indulgence and over-consumption to the point of waste.)
 - (1) Eating too much (Gandhi: we would never think to overfill a car)
 - (2) Eating too expensively
- vi) Envy
 - (1) Physical: Want a neighbor's stuff or trait
 - (2) Holy envy: wishing we had the gifts or spirituality of others
- vii) Sloth (spiritual apathy and inactivity)
 - (1) Joylessness
 - (2) Spiritualize Jesus' commands
 - (3) Wearied by or flee things in which we find no spiritual sweets

b) Overcoming the barriers²

- i) *Our most determined efforts at personal reform do not last long. We win only as long as we achieve a constant walk with Christ. Human effort loses the fiber in its intention. Discipline is a matter of the inner reign of Christ. He will be victorious when he is allowed full sovereignty.* (Miller, 29)
- ii) *The best way, then, to deal with sin is not to attempt reform but to adore the Savior. Winning over our lower nature is made by positive adoration. While we worship the enthroned and inner Christ, we cannot be intrigued by negative preoccupations with sin.* (Miller, 29)

c) Video clip—Patch Adams

7:00	Closing Prayer
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¹ Finley, James. *Merton's Palace of Nowhere*.

³ St. John of the Cross. *Dark Night of the*

² Miller, Calvin. *The Table of Inwardness*.

Soul.

Vice

Virtue

Lust (excessive sexual appetites) Chastity (purity of soul)

Gluttony (over-indulgence) Temperance (self-restraint)

Greed (avarice) Charity (giving)

Sloth (idleness) Diligence (zeal/initiative)

Wrath (anger) Forgiveness (composure)

Envy (jealousy) Kindness (admiration)

Pride (vanity) Humility (modesty)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_deadly_sins#Lust_.28Latin.2C_luxuria.29