



SESSION 6 CHAPTER 2

THE WAYS OF THE ALONGSIDER

Pray

As you will recall, in Chapter 1 we looked at author Bill Mowry's reasons why he believes 'ministry amateurs who have a heart to serve God' can become the best disciple makers. After all, we already have some degree of relationship because we're the ones doing life with those can disciple. He calls this 'life-to-life' discipleship - friends meeting together over an open Bible, sharing their lives, and helping one another more closely follow Jesus. This week, in chapter 2, we see that the motive for a ministry amateur's desire to disciple is based on the most basic of Christian values - following the Great Commandment. As we love vertically, we come to love horizontally.

The chapter opens with the diagram I provided you last week. Let's talk about that diagram now that you better understand what the symbols mean to you.

HAVE A DISCUSSION USING THE WHITEBOARD.

The Bull's-eye Target describes what (The New Testament's portrait of a Disciple)?

The Heart with the R in it describes what (Heartfelt Relationships)?

What is the 2D inside (an open Bible leads to Spirit-led Discussion and Discovery)?

What does the 3A stand for (Application, Accountability and Affirmation)?

The text picks up the author's personal story. If you recall back on page 5, Bill shares how he was disciplined by Ed, a friend in his college dorm. Ed, Joe, and Kent had become models of what disciples look like. Then, something happened to Bill that will happen to pretty much everyone. He lost his 'support group'. He was on his own. The good news is that Bill deliberately did something positive about his circumstance. He had read a book that offered the challenge to do what we've been calling 'having a quiet time'.

Look at the last sentence on page 13. Notice the word 'decided'? He writes, "I decided to take this challenge." What does that word 'decided' mean? WAIT (LOOK FOR "INTENTIONAL and CHOICE") He then gives you the proper motive for making the choice that he made. "God's love called me to take action."

Skipping down to the next paragraph, would ____ please read that paragraph for us.

Thanks. Let's go back to the beginning of the third sentence. That properly motivated and intentional choice, that 'small decision', allowed consequences to unfold. In the next sentence he uses the word 'grasped'. He's talking about the process we call 'discovery'. It's the revelatory work of God's Holy Spirit. It is the same revelatory work that will allow anyone desiring spiritual growth to realize such growth. In this case Bill discovered the reason, the motive, for his action. It was motivated by God's desire for His children to love Him.

The reasoning behind that love is found over in 1st John 4:19. Will someone read that scripture verse? Thanks. What does that verse mean to you? WAIT

Please know also it is this love that sets up all disciples to become effective disciple makers. We model our love for the Lord, and that modeling carries over into loving relationships that promote the dual benefits of discipleship, both for ourselves and for those we disciple. Skipping over to page 16, would someone read Rev 3:20 and someone else read John 14: 15 - 17? WAIT

Bill's last sentence in the second paragraph, "We make choices not only to believe but to live in His love." What does that mean to you? (EXPERIENTIAL LOVE had more impact than just a 'head knowledge'.)

Did you have any issue about completing the sentences on page 16 and 17?

Please note at Q 6 on page 17 Bill's comment. Would someone read that first sentence? What does mean to you?

Let's take time to get some of your answers to Qs 7, 8 and 9.

At the bottom of page 18 and the top of page 19 Bill writes about his relationship with his wife Peggy. He ends the paragraph with "We don't grow in our love for Him by His simple presence but by the determined effort of seeking Him." Then he offers the quote from Chuck Swindoll, "Seeking intimacy with the Almighty requires focused attention." How would you interpret their comments in light of what we discussed about the personal disciplines, such as having quiet times? Do you agree with his logic? (Contrast the issues of being versus doing.)

Before we move on, are there any questions or issues that came up for you over the materials on pages 19 and 20? WAIT

Let's move over to page 21. Did you pick up on the VIM materials in this chapter being different from the way they were expressed in chapter 1? Bill immediately gets our attention in the first sentence under "Alongsiders Practice VIM". What did you think about the word he uses - 'recruit'? WAIT

Over on pages 22 and 23 Bill draws up some questions for us to consider. Do you think these would be better choices to guide our journaling considerations?

So, in summary,

Now, how about sharing some stories? Who wants to be next?

Close in prayer.