



SESSION 12 CHAPTER 8

THE WAYS OF THE ALONGSIDER

PRAY

Today we're looking at the second part of Bill Mowry's focus on the 2Ds - Discovery and Discussion Around the Bible. He begins our material with a made up story about teaching one of his dogs how to whistle. Would someone please kick start our review by turning over to page 80 and read the fourth and fifth sentences in the top longer paragraph?

Thanks. Bill continues his point with a reference to Luke 6:40. Within the context of a parable about a blind man attempting to lead another blind man, Jesus reminds His audience that, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher."

Since we are relying upon God's Holy Spirit to learn and apply what Jesus taught, who among you believes this statement applies to us? Who does not? Why?

Bill reminds us that as we come alongside another person in a disciple making role, we are relying upon God's Holy Spirit for the provision of insight and learning. In this role we are simply co-laboring with Him to help another person or persons to reach greater levels of spiritual maturity. So it is His work, not ours that will be the transforming agent in this whole learning period. Yet, just as Jesus sent out His first disciples to do things in His name, we are equally commissioned.

So just 'how' did Jesus teach? Bill recorded six ways for us at the top of page 81.

- ▶ **SERMONS** - Matthew 5 - 7 Including the Beatitudes or the Sermon on the Mount, the extended application of the Ten Commandments, How to Pray, The Golden Rule, and other topics
- ▶ **PARABLES** - Matthew 13 Seven of them, including The Sower, The Weeds, The Mustard Seed, Hidden Pearls, and The Fish Net
- ▶ **EXAMPLES** - John 13: 12 - 17 Including where Jesus washes the disciples' feet
- ▶ **ASSIGNMENTS** - Luke 9: 1-6 Including where Jesus sent His disciples to go drive out demons, perform miracles and preach the Kingdom of God
- ▶ **METAPHORS** - John 10: 7 - 11 Including where he relates Himself as the Good Shepherd who watches over and calls His sheep.
- ▶ **QUESTIONS** - Mark 12: 35 - 37 Including where Jesus taught at the Temple

These six ways provide us examples of the continuum whereby people learn. It begins with the ways of hearing formal telling over to the ways of informal questioning. What do you think was Bill's point in letting you view these as a being on a progressive track?

It's this last method that Bill emphasizes the most. His key sentence is the last one on the paragraph on page 83: "Questions help build bridges for discovery and learning."

Will someone read the first sentence of the paragraph found at the bottom of page 84?

WAIT

How would you define the word 'conversations'? "Oral communication between persons, talk, social intercourse"

What do you think Bill's reason for this line of discussion is? WAIT

If you don't mind, I would like to add a personal comment here. Rather than going off into an educational discourse, I simply share this thought: Conversations can be lengthened and deepened when good questions are asked. I can compare the art of making conversation to golf. For me, it's kind of like standing over a one-foot putt on the golf green. I don't need to spend a lot of time analyzing things; I should just aim and hit. I've done it countless times. By now I should simply trust my stroke.

As an alongsider, when I am in a conversation that I want to extend or deepen, I simply do the same thing. I don't need to over-analyze things. I just need to share and trust my conversational instincts and God's Holy Spirit to lead the conversation where it is supposed to go. Certainly, I want to remain intentional about what it is that I'm trying to help the disciple discover, but the right questions will come to mind. I can count on God doing His part as I do mine. You can too.

Will someone read the top paragraph on page 87?

Bill points out four key components that make a simple story a good story.

- ▶ **Concise** - short to the point
- ▶ **Connect** with the commonplace events of our lives
- ▶ **Vivid Illustrations** involve our senses and help us to identify with it
- ▶ **Personal** to the listener

Help us Think by asking questions that take us deeper

When you put these two issues together - asking good questions and telling stories - we set up the circumstance to help someone discover. D\

Why do you believe that discovery will trump teaching insofar as having a lasting impact?

How does that help the disciple?

How does that help the disciplemaker?

Turn to page 90. Will someone read the last paragraph that carries over to p 91?

Who do you believe is best served by the alongsider being curious - the disciple or the disciplemaker?

Will someone go back to the italicized sentence at the top of page 53? How does love connect with the issue of being curious? How do you believe this combination of love and curiosity impacts the dynamics of discipleship?

CLOSE IN PRAYER