

Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

Making Disciples

by Kevin Little

Does anybody out there speak math? I'm fluent in it, so much so that God, when He really wants something to stick, gives me some numbers. In today's video, Tony invited us, like Jesus did His own disciples, to make disciples. I received this invitation almost 26 years ago as a freshman at the University of Tulsa, and, wouldn't you know it, God gave me numbers.

After sharing the Great Commission and discussing what a disciple looked like, David (the first person who discipled me) began to show me the power of making disciples by contrasting "addition" versus "multiplication". Let me relate the thought exercise he took me on:

With "addition", what if you had the supernatural gift to lead 1,000 people to Christ every single day? I don't know how old you are currently, but what if you worked 365 days per year for 50 years? (I'll gonna give you leap day off every four years). At the end of that kind of ministry, you would have led 18,250,000 people to the Lord. Would that be worth investing your life? If you are anything like me, then you are shaking your head violently, agreeing that 18 million souls is worth your life. But is it likely? I had to admit that I showed no affinity to crusade ministry and that it would not be likely, and I'm guessing that most of you would also come to that conclusion.

But could you lead one person to Christ each year for the rest of your life? With "multiplication", rather than hopping to the next city, you would bring this babe in Christ along with you in life. You let her see how you pray, how you study God's Word, how you apply it, how you love your family, how you work hard, how you rest and refresh, all the elements that go into how you follow Jesus, and you teach her to do the same. What if, then, the two of you both go out and lead someone else to the Lord and then repeat that same process again? At the end of year two, you both would do it again, bringing the total number of disciples to 4. Year three, there would be 8. Year four, you would multiply to 16. What if that process continued unbroken for those same 50 years? What would the impact be? Take a guess before you scroll down to see the number. Would it be more than 18,250,000? Of course, or this would be a stupid thought exercise! What would the impact be?

1,125,899,906,842,624

That number at the beginning there is ONE QUADRILLION! Do you see why this number stuck in my head and cemented my life purpose? Because this is not just a number of converts; this is over one quadrillion people who had a spiritual father or a spiritual mother. This is over one quadrillion folks who can feed themselves in God's Word and invite others to follow their examples.

Jesus was not only the Son of God; you also have to recognize that He was the smartest man who ever lived. His strategy was brilliant, but it also came with authority, power, and presence when He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So will you offer yourself to Jesus, to continue his work on this earth by making disciples among your circle of influence?

The road to one quadrillion starts with this single step.