## (Handout this page 1 for discussion, then give the detailed notes later)

- Overview of "My Next Steps". Two tracks. 2 semesters each. 50 topics.
- Statement about this group (15 of us). We will all take both tracks. We are going to work together to develop this track. It is more involved because some of it has never been done.
- As start this track, which is called Christian Training and Serving, we will first be preparing ourselves to be better able to minister to people. We will be thinking and discussing brainstorming (one of my favorite things). We don't have resources (books to follow); we are going to be making them or finding them as we go. "We are the resource." We are going to grow individually, but we are also going to be thinking about, "how to we grow the church to learn to work together?"

Today, I want us to think about something that underlies all that we will be doing in this track. I want us to think about who we are and how we are to think about ourselves as disciples.

### SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK OURSELVES AND DISCUSS:

### DID JESUS CALL EVERYONE TO BE A DISCIPLE AND HOW DO WE KNOW?

WHEN JESUS WOKE UP EACH MORNING, WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE WAS ON HIS MIND?

### WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO HAVE THAT ON OUR MINDS AS WELL?

# WHAT GETS IN THE WAY OF CARRYING THIS MENTALITY ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS?

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WHAT DID WE SEE ABOUT PAUL WHEN HE WENT TO CORINTH, BEFORE SILAS AND TIMOTHY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AGAIN? WHAT WAS HE DOING?

#### WHAT HELPED HIM AFTER THEY CAME?

BUT WHAT WAS PAUL'S FOCUS BEFORE THEY CAME?

WHEN IT SAYS THAT PAUL BECAME "ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

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Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)
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<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Disciples of all (not just believers)
- Teaching them to observe (that is a disciple)

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- All that I have commanded you...

WHEN JESUS WOKE UP EACH MORNING, WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE WAS ON HIS MIND?

- To give his life as a ransom for many.

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO HAVE THAT ON OUR MINDS AS WELL?

- When we follow Jesus we have the same mind that he has:
  - To see people saved
  - To see them become disciples
- So there is this "redemptive lifestyle mentality" that Jesus had and we are supposed to carry with us too.

WHAT GETS IN THE WAY OF CARRYING THIS MENTALITY ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS?

## WHAT DID WE SEE ABOUT PAUL WHEN HE WENT TO CORINTH, BEFORE SILAS AND TIMOTHY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AGAIN? WHAT WAS HE DOING?

Acts 18:1–5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was of the

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same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. <sup>4</sup> And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

## He was part-time in the gospel because he had to work.

### WHAT HELPED HIM AFTER THEY CAME?

- They were working together. They provided resources so they could be more effective. We need to work together.
- The reality that we have to work and them "make time" for ministry.

### BUT WHAT WAS PAUL'S FOCUS BEFORE THEY CAME?

- He was still focused on the gospel on having that redemptive lifestyle. Going to the Synagogue weekly.
- To become all things to all men.
  - 1 Corinthians 9:22–23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

- He cared about his example.

WHEN IT SAYS THAT PAUL BECAME "ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

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- It means that he thought about them. How do they think. What is important to them. How can I make the gospel make sense to them. What should I not do?
- It was work and preparation.
- We are going to be working in this track to work on thinking about how we can share the gospel with others.