

life were all demonstrated in the life of His followers. These eight characteristics were all true of Jesus, His disciples and the Apostle Paul. In fact, in 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says, *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”* The question to be asked today is simply this...Are these eight characteristics true of you?

**CHARACTERISTICS OF A MATURE AND MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE**

- Growing in faith
- Serving the needs of others
- Behaving with godly character
- Sharing the message of God
- Exalting the Father's glory
- Belonging to Christian community
- Managing life's resources
- Reproducing more disciples

**“JESUS: AN INTENTIONAL METHODOLOGY”**

To fulfill the mission of being and building disciples while modeling the end product, Jesus implemented a very intentional strategy. Even a quick read through of the Gospels will reveal to you that Jesus built mature and multiplying disciples by using a four-stage approach to disciple-making.

**The first stage Jesus used was the “Come and See” stage.** In John 1:29, Jesus said to a couple of potential followers, *“Come, and you will see.”* In this outreach stage, Jesus is calling interested seekers to come and investigate the life He has to offer.

**The second stage Jesus used in making disciples was the “Come and Follow Me” stage.** In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, *“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* Jesus was call-

ing these seekers to another level of commitment. He was asking them to join Him in His mission. In this stage, Jesus is building a community of followers by assimilating them into a team to do ministry.

**A third stage Jesus used in making disciples was the “Come and Remain in Me” stage.** In John 15:7, Jesus said, *“If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you.”* Jesus' strategy to make disciples meant teaching them and training them to obey His commands. In this discipleship stage Jesus is intentionally investing His life in a handful of people who will model and fulfill His mission.

**Finally, the last stage Jesus used in making disciples was the “Go Out From Me” stage.** In Mark 3:14, the Bible says that Jesus *“appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.”* This last stage in Jesus' strategy was leadership development. Jesus developed the leaders for the New Testament church through discipleship.

Jesus was very intentional about His disciple-making strategy. He reached out, He plugged in, He built up and He sent out. Through outreach, assimilation, discipleship and leadership Jesus began a movement of being and building mature and multiplying disciples. Does your life and ministry reflect the methodology that Jesus used?

**“JESUS: FOUNDER OF A MOVEMENT”**

As you study the life of Christ you begin to realize two very significant truths: 1) Jesus' mission was to make disciples of “all nations” and 2) Jesus never had any intention of reaching all nations by himself. Jesus has made the greatest impact of all time because He founded a movement of disciple-making that had the

potential to reach all nations.

The movement of disciple making that Jesus started is called the church. The church was originally designed to be a movement of multiplying disciples. Over the years, the church has drifted away from the original purpose, and now our challenge is to restore the church to become a movement of multiplication once again.

To restore the church to a movement of multiplication, we need to take four essential steps. **First, we need to reclaim Christ's vision for the church.** Jesus' vision for the church was His mission for life...*“To be a disciple and build more disciples.”* **Second, we need to reevaluate the functions of the church.** The church fulfills Christ's mission by creating an atmosphere where identity, community, maturity and ministry are flourishing in the life of believers. **The third step is to develop a strategy based on the methodology of Jesus' life.** Outreach, assimilation, discipleship and leadership will solidify an effective disciple-making strategy. **Finally, the church must find a structure that allows for the movement to grow.**

If a church is healthy, it will produce people who are living with Christ's mission, modeling Christ's characteristics, and following Christ's method. Anything less than that and the church has lost its purpose. Is the church you are in a healthy church? Is it making an impact?

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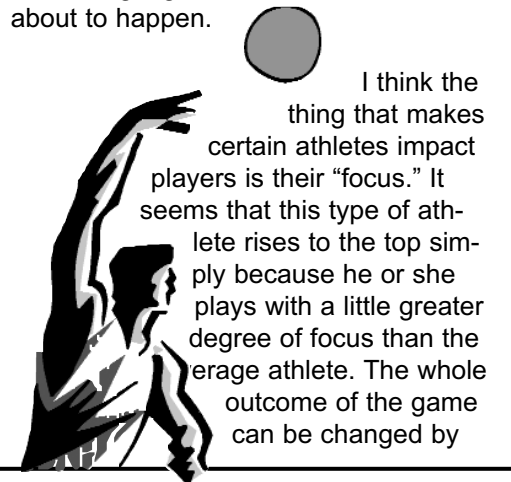
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**THE IMPACT LIFE**

by Ken Adams

Have you ever been watching a football or basketball game on television and heard the announcer refer to a particular athlete as an impact player? If you've watched more than a handful of sporting events, my guess is you know exactly what I'm talking about. In just about every sport, there is a small handful of athletes that truly make an impact on the outcome of the game. The moment they step onto the field or court you know something big is about to happen.



one player's ability to be more focused than the rest of the team.

Interestingly life, like athletics, is filled with impact players. Throughout history, there has been a handful of people who have stepped onto the field of life and made a difference. These people have lived their lives in such a way that they have changed the outcome of the game. Wouldn't you love to be an impact player in the game of life? Wouldn't you love to know that your life had made a difference on the outcome of the game?

Of all the impact players that have ever lived, one person stands out among all the rest. Jesus Christ is the ultimate impact player. His life has made more of a difference than any other single individual. Jesus has forever changed the outcome of the game. Jesus has made a difference in eternity!

Just think about it. Jesus was born in a small town. He had poor parents. He never owned a home, a car, a business, or a closet full of clothes. He didn't have a college or seminary education. He traveled only a few miles from home. He never wrote a book. He didn't have a radio or television show, or a large tape ministry. He was crucified on a cross between two common criminals. He was buried in a borrowed grave. He didn't leave behind a large organization or corporation. All He left were the clothes on His back and a handful of men and women that were called His disciples. Amazing isn't it? This simple life has made the single greatest impact on human history. Jesus has impacted more people than any other individual who ever walked the planet. He has conquered more people than Caesar, Napoleon, or Hitler. He has taught more truth than Galileo, Newton or Einstein. And more books, plays, songs, works of art, and movies have been inspired by Jesus than anyone else. How did He do it? How did Jesus live His life to make such an

incredible impact? Jesus made a greater impact on the world than another single person because He lived with a greater degree of focus than any other person in history. Jesus knew His mission. Jesus lived as a model. Jesus used a method, and Jesus started a movement. These four things gave Jesus the focus that caused His life to have the greatest impact ever.

### "JESUS: A MAN ON A MISSION"

Jesus didn't do ministry haphazardly. He wasn't "winging it" and taking it as it came. Jesus was a man on a mission. He was sent to earth with a very intentional purpose and goal. Jesus lived His entire life with a twofold mission in mind.

**The first part of Jesus' mission was simply to be an authentic disciple.** Before Jesus did anything, He was being the right person. In fact, Jesus made this part of His mission very clear in Matthew 22:37-39. When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus said, *"To love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all you soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."* Jesus is saying that the most important thing we can do is to live in a right relationship with God, a right relationship with self, and a right relationship with others. That is what it means to "Be" a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**The second part of Jesus' mission was to help others become authentic disciples.** He not only came to "Be" a disciple, but He came to "Build" disciples. Jesus' priority of building disciples is very apparent in the last words He gave to His disciples. Commonly referred to as the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said, *"Go 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."* In these famous last words, Jesus is commissioning us to go to the world, help them come to faith and then teach them how to "Be" disciples of Christ.

Jesus' mission was to be and build disciples. He stayed focused on His mission and you and I are able to know Him today because His mission was a success. The question we must ask ourselves today is, "Does our mission in life match the mission of Christ?" Are you being a disciple and are you building more disciples? If you're not, you've got the wrong mission!

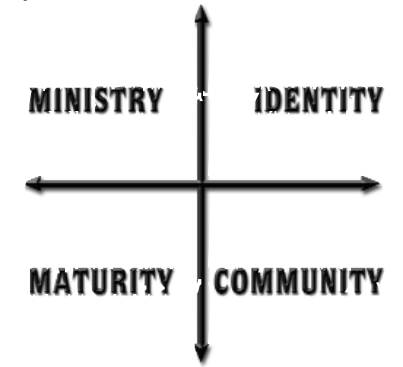
### "JESUS: A MODEL TO FOLLOW"

The life Jesus lived was actually a model of His mission. Jesus did not just expect people to do what He said, He expected them to become what He was. In 1 John 2:6, the Bible says, *"If anyone claims to live in Him, they must walk as Jesus did."*

Since Jesus' mission was to be and build disciples, He lived His life as a model of a fully mature and multiplying disciple. Jesus was a fully mature disciple. He lived in right relationships. Jesus was a multiplying disciple. He invested in a handful of men in such a way that they would invest in others. If you and I claim to be Christians, our goal should be to walk as a mature and multiplying disciple. As you study the life of Christ, you will begin to identify several common characteristics of a mature and multiplying disciple. When you look at Jesus' disciples and even the Apostle Paul, you see these same characteristics. If these characteristics were true of Jesus, the original disciples, and Paul, they ought to be true of us!

Once you start to study Christ's life, you will begin to discover that all of the characteristics of a mature and multiplying disciple fall into four major categories. Christ modeled the character-

istics of Identity, Community, Maturity, and Ministry.



In the area of **IDENTITY**, Christ modeled characteristics of exalting the Father and of behaving differently from the world. A mature and multiplying disciple identifies with a different kingdom and is driven by God's agenda, not his own.

The area of **COMMUNITY** was modeled by Jesus in the way He related to His followers. Community life with Jesus was characterized by the traits of belonging and serving. Jesus was the model of a mature and multiplying disciple in that He demonstrated the priorities of belonging to a fellowship of believers and serving those in the fellowship.

A third set of characteristics that Jesus modeled was what we will call the **MATURITY** traits. The maturity characteristics include the priority of personal growth and personal managing. As the disciples followed Jesus' model, they grew in their relationship with God and in their stewardship of life.

The last area of characteristics Jesus modeled was in the **MINISTRY** area. The ministry characteristics include the traits of sharing and reproducing. A mature and multiplying disciple is marked by a lifestyle of evangelism and disciple making.

Each of these four categories of Christ's