

The Great Opportunity:

Making Disciples of Jesus in *Every* Vocation

Dave Buehring March 7, 2021

Introduction

Pastor Dave told the stories of three of his friends whose lives he had impacted by discipling them, not only personally — but vocationally.

The difference made in the lives of these people is they had a further-along follower of Jesus deliberately disciple them in the ways of God both personally and vocationally!

We often have a church culture that views "getting saved" as the end game. After all, a person's sins are forgiven, and they are going to Heaven! However, as much as we rejoice in that reality, we need to also be ready to **reproduce the life of Jesus within them!**

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

† MATTHEW 28:18-20 ESV

THE
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Have you ever really paused to consider how we got to where we are today?

Social Strife

Racial Issues

Political Tension

The Loss of God's Truth as a Reference Point

Picking up Offenses / Not Hearing Each Other

Add a Global Pandemic, Economic Shifts, Natural Disasters

And...Spiritual Thinness and Faulty Foundations in God's Church

We are where we are today – as a people and nation –because of the Church’s lack of engagement with obeying The Great Co-Mission of Jesus to make disciples!

Therefore, we have fewer disciples of Jesus walking the planet whose *character* reflects His; whose *ways* of doing things reference His ways; and whose life’s *mission* includes His mission of making disciples!

Think about this with me.

Jesus asked His disciples to reproduce His *character, ways, and mission* in others who would follow Him. This allows disciples to carry the heart, attitudes, words, and actions of Jesus into every setting and situation of life they find themselves in. This includes their families, relationships – and within their vocations!

Michael Faraday	Harriet Beecher Stowe
Susanna Wesley	Jackie Robinson
Corrie Ten Boom	William Wilberforce

A scientist, an author, a mom, an athlete, a businesswoman, and a government leader. Each one, as disciples of Jesus, contributed distinctively to making a difference in the life of an individual, a family, or a society.

You and I can make a real difference

- a societal and generational difference
- by connecting our calling with

The Great Co-Mission of Jesus!

Your Calling

“We often use words like work, job, profession, career, occupation, and vocation, thinking they all mean the same thing. However, the word “calling” is rooted in the Latin word vocatio, from which we get in English, the word “vocation.”

JESUS HAS INTENDED THAT OUR VOCATION BE A PRIMARY WAY OF EXPRESSING OUR CALLING!

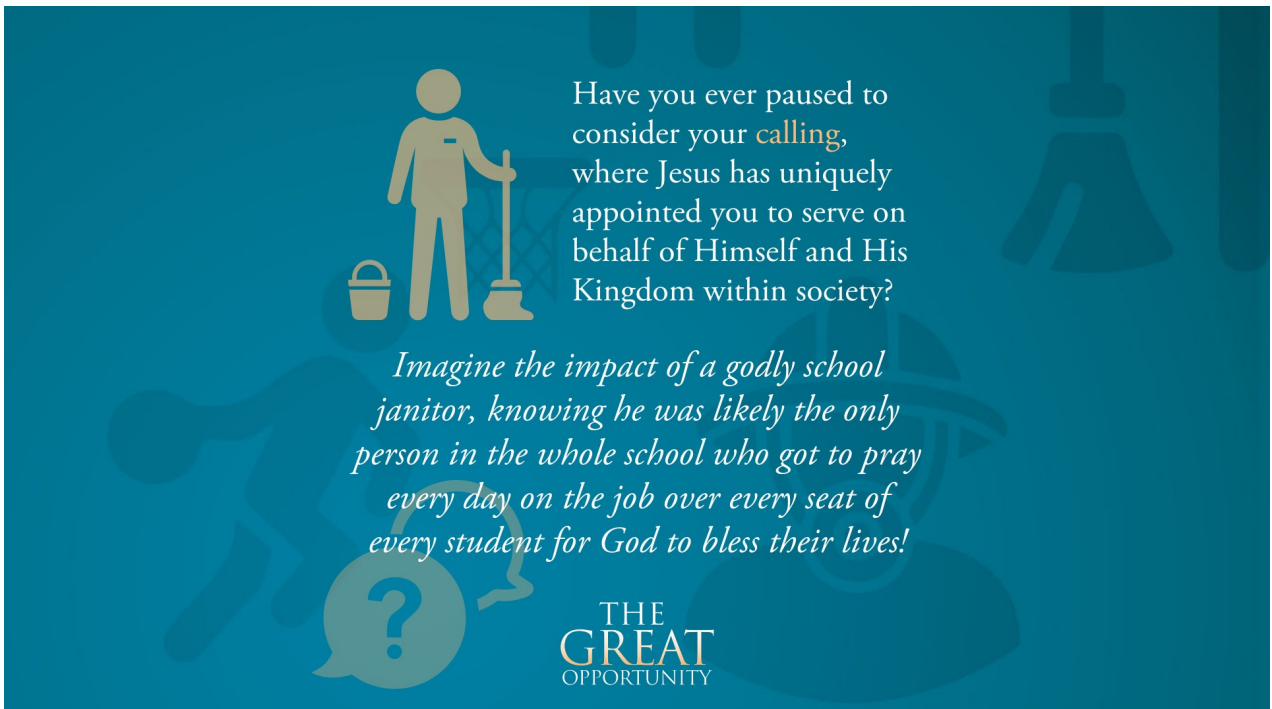
THE
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***It’s not “just a job” you go do,
it’s doing **God’s work**
everywhere you go!***

Calling is about God sending us into society where He wants us to represent Him. It is never about just running off to “do something for God” or “using my gifts” and asking God to bless us. Rather, God is always the initiator, the one who “**sets our target.**”

Calling is about God sending us into society, where He wants us to represent Him.

	PASSION	
	+	
YOUR	GIFTEDNESS	
CALLING =	+	= Where God appointed
	VOCATIONAL FIELD	you to serve in society
	+	
	OPPORTUNITY	
	+	
	OBEDIENCE	



The vocations aren't just places where we work and get paid.
They are meant to **reflect and display** various aspects of **God's character**
through our lives as we do what we do.
It's a very practical way for each of us to bring glory to God!

The Great Co-Mission

Three out of four Christian workers do not connect faith with their work.

The changes we desire to see in our lives, families, churches, vocations, and societies don't just happen automatically. They happen because of deliberate reproducing of disciples.

When asked what a Christian's responsibility was in the workplace, the deliberate expression of **disciple making** did not even make the list!

- 1) Act ethically — 88%
 - 2) Speak the truth — 88%
 - 3) Demonstrate morality — 87%
 - 4) Do excellent work to glorify God — 83%
 - 5) ...
 - 6) ...
- ?) Make disciples in your vocation — 0%*

Mentoring /men,tôr/
Passing something on that one has to another.



Coaching /kōCH/
Strategically guiding someone toward a discovered end.



Disciple making always references God's character, ways, and mission via the Scriptures as its source for shaping and guiding lives.



THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

VOCATIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING is developing disciples of Jesus who reflect His **character**, walk in His **ways**, and participate in His **mission**, in and through their **vocation**.

WHEN “ON THE JOB...”

- Are our motivations, attitudes, words, and actions reflective of Jesus?
- Are the quality and excellence reflective of Jesus?
- Are you relating to the people you work with the way Jesus would?



Connecting *Your Calling with* the Great Co-Mission

Walking as disciples of Jesus means every area of our lives has been yielded to His Lordship, including what we do to get paid during a certain 40–50 hours each week.

OUR VOCATION IS TIED TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*When followers of Jesus view their **vocations** through the lens of the Great Co-Mission, the result is the transformation of the people and societies.*

- Where has God provided you with a **vocational advantage** to steward as an opportunity to change another's disadvantage?
- When you are going about your day, are you aware of and make margin for the moments that Jesus sets up for you to **better and bless the lives of others**?

REGARDLESS OF WHAT GOD CALLS ONE TO DO,
THERE ARE THREE SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE POINTS:

- 1 — God's Kingdom being advanced.
- 2— The lives of people around us
being bettered and blessed.
- 3 — His Name glorified.

*Without these, we must question whether we are
fulfilling the calling of God on our lives
or simply "going to work"!*

Your Great Opportunity!

You currently have a window that God has opened:

- *To obey Jesus by connecting your vocation with disciple making!*
- *To disciple people who reflect and reproduce God's character, ways, and mission that He can place throughout society to make a difference in families, churches, vocations, communities, and nations!*
- *To shape the next generation to live and lead in the ways of God.*

“A failure to provide vocational discipleship could be a failure to help Christians, especially younger ones, keep their faith.”

~ David Kinnaman, President of Barna Group

Disciple Making Math

...End of Year Total Disciple Makers

1 — 150

2 — 450

3 — 1,350

4 — 4,050

5 — 12,150

6 — 36,450

7 — 109,350

8 — 328,050

9 — 984,150

10 — 2,952,450

11 — 8,857,350

12 — 26,572,050

13 — 79,716,150

14 — 239,148,450

15 — 717,445,350

16 — 2,152,336,050

17 — 6,457,008,150

18 — 19,371,024,450

Dave Buehring's book *The Great Opportunity: Making Disciples of Jesus in Every Vocation* takes you beyond the knowledge that your faith should impact your work and shows you **why and how to make disciples** among those who share your vocation.
~ A Lionshare Resouce

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss your “calling” as “God sending you into society where He wants you to represent Him.”
2. How is *Disciple Making* different than *Mentoring* or *Coaching*?
3. Define “*vocational disciple making*.”
4. How do you know if you are fulfilling the calling of God on your vocational life, or if you are simply “going to work”?
5. What window of opportunity has God opened for you by connecting your vocation to disciple making?
6. Respond to David Kinnaman’s quote, “A failure to provide vocational discipleship could be a failure to help Christians, especially younger ones, keep their faith.”

NOTES