

# **Gospel Fluency: The Key to Effective Disciplemaking**

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# The Key To Effective Disciplemaking

Every one of us is making disciples. The question is what are you making disciples of?

You probably have somebody following your example, learning from your lead, emulating your experience. And in some ways, they are becoming a disciple.

The question is: *are they becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ?*

That's the real question, and that's the question we have to keep asking because for many of us, we're making disciples of something other than Christ.

In Ephesians 4:11, we're told that God gives some to the body to equip the saints for works of ministry. We also see that the purpose of our equipping is that we would attain to the unity of the faith.

This is verse 13: unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature, the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness and deceitful schemes.

So the expectation is that everybody grows up. We don't have a picture here of a church that remains in perpetual infancy or in adolescence. In fact, Paul in Colossians says, "My job is to present everyone mature in Christ."

## **True Spiritual Maturity**

And I don't know if you've ever heard this said, but I've had people say to me before, "Jeff, I just want to go to a church that feeds me." And I always say, "So are you telling me you don't ever want to grow up?" Because Hebrews says that by now, you should be able to feed others, not just yourself, right?

And when people come to me and they go, "Man, I just want meat." Do you know what meat means in Hebrews? It means you actually chew it up and digest it. You take the word. You chew it up. You learn from it. You grow from it. You can do it.

And when they say they want meat, what they usually mean is they'd like me just to digest a bigger meal for them and then squeeze it out in the form of milk for them to nip on, right?

Now, I know that's maybe a little bit of an image you

don't want in your head, but that is the image that the writer of Hebrews has in mind.

He's saying we're not little children who come and continue to drink breast milk. That's not what we do. We grow up, and we grow up into Christ. And we grow up in such a way that we can discern good from evil. We can tell whether a teaching is true or false. We're not easily deceived.

But what's interesting is he says the way that we do that is we speak the truth in love. Rather speaking the truth in love, we're to grow up in every way into Christ who is the head, or in every way into Him who's the head into Christ.

The question is what is speaking the truth in love? Now, you may have been in those contexts where someone says, "Hey, brother or sister, I got something I got to say to you. It's one of those hard words to speak in truth and love." You're kind of obnoxious, right? That's not what he's talking about.

In fact, if you want to learn how to study scripture, you study scripture according to scripture. So you keep reading a little bit further.

Later on, Paul says that's not the way you learn Christ. Verse 20 says, "assuming that you've heard about Him and were taught in Him as the truth is in Jesus."

So when Paul says, "speak the truth in love," it's him saying speak Jesus to one another in love. That's what he means.

So you want to grow people up into Christ. You can't give them something other than Christ to grow them up into Christ. If you want them to grow up into Christ, you speak Christ. You speak Jesus to them. It's the only way you grow up.

## **How NOT To Grow**

So here's the deal. Some of us, if we're not careful, we're going to grow people up into missional communities. Because that's what we're going to give them.

Or we're going to grow them up into finding the person of peace because that's what we're going to give them. By the way, just to let you know, I'm all for those things. I'm just saying those are the things that grow them up into Christ.

Those might be methods or means, but we don't give people methods and means. We give them Jesus Christ. The methods and means might be their means by which

we give them Jesus, but they're not the thing we give them. We have to be careful about that.

Let me just go a little bit further. You don't give them the Bible. Now, you're going to go, "Oh no. Now you're going places you shouldn't go."

You don't give them the Bible. You give them Jesus in the Bible. You teach them how to read the Bible and find Jesus in the text because it's all about Him.

And if they get the Bible and they don't get Jesus, you've led them away from Jesus with the Bible. And you can do that.

You don't give them spiritual disciplines to grow them up. You give them spiritual disciplines to lead them to the end of themselves and the beginning of Jesus.

Why do we fast? So we realize Jesus is the bread of life that feeds our deep hunger.

Why do we pray? So that we'll acknowledge our deep dependency on Jesus to do it by the power of the spirit.

Why do we fellowship? So we'll remind each other that we are not Jesus, right? These are the reasons why we do these things.

Some of you guys know what we're talking about there, right? Some of you got married and you thought you were Jesus going into the marriage. Or you thought the other was Jesus. Then you went, "Man, neither one of us is at all like Jesus. We're a mess." We need Jesus.

## **Speaking the Truth in Love**

And you might go, "Well, I'm good at this. I know how to speak Jesus." And let me just clarify. Here are the things you need to know about Jesus that you need to speak.

Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the God man, God made flesh. Jesus is the one who lived a perfectly submitted life as a human on our behalf because we don't. Jesus, the son of God, the number one son of God that makes you able to be a son of God because of his perfect obedience.

Therefore, you can rest because you know it's never going to be your obedience that's going to grant God's favor. It's Jesus's obedience for you. He's the one who went to the cross.

And at the cross, he exchanged his righteousness for your sin. He who knew no sin became sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. So at the cross, you and I who are by nature children of wrath

become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. That's amazing!

And that's what happens. Jesus's life, Jesus's death, Jesus's resurrection, don't leave it out people. I have seen the church become so cross-focused that they don't have a resurrection theology.

## **The Big Problem in the Church**

And that's a big problem in the church, because without the resurrection, we, of all people, ought to be pitied. We are still in our sins.

The resurrection tells us he overcame sin, Satan, and death for us so that we might have the power, the spirit poured into us to overcome sin by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

That's part of the gospel. Don't leave that out. You leave that out, you got people with a clean record and no power. That's not what Jesus wants. He wants people who are both saved from the penalty of sin and given power to overcome sin today.

And then Jesus has ascended at the right hand of God the Father where he intercedes continually for you and I. Don't lose that one either because you and I need someone to be praying for us even when we don't know

how to pray. And we have one who's going to return in the final day. He is going to make all things new.

And so the worst nightmares are going to be redeemed and changed and healed. People are going to experience a new world. And we're hopeful. We're so full of hope. We have a living hope according to 1 Peter that what is kept in heaven for us cannot be defiled, cannot fade, and cannot be destroyed. He is securing it till that day.

And when He comes, He is going to make it all right so you can face anything and not worry about losing anything. Because the only thing yet you can lose is the thing that's being kept for you in heaven. Because nothing else really matters.

That's the gospel, by the way. You need all of that. You don't just need Jesus dying on the cross, which you do. You need His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, His intercession for you, and His eventual return. It's good news.

## **How To Speak The Good News**

So now, let me ask you, how do you speak that?

Because here's the question. I just said it and I gave you the whole message, but do you know how to speak that

to finances? This is what I want to really be careful about.

It seems to me like some of us know how to have a Jesus-preaching Sunday, and then the rest of our messages are about somebody other than Jesus. And we preach on finances. We teach all kinds of good giving habits and principles. And I don't know who you follow, but I know there's lots of stuff out there that's teaching on finances.

### **The Gospel and Finances**

But I'll just tell you, when I look at a lot of it, I see very little Jesus in it. And that concerns me a lot. When was the last time you counseled someone with finances and you said, "Okay, before we go anywhere, I just need to let you know the God of the universe has all the resources you need today, that you are co-heir with Christ.

Therefore, you are as rich as you could ever imagine. That He who was rich became poor so that in His poverty, you might become rich. So that should make you the most generous and eager to give because you know that even though He lost it all, He got it all back."

And let me ask you, do you know much about first fruits? Because see, Jesus is the first fruit of a new creation.

And God was willing to give His own son so that with Him, He might take in everyone else. Do you know that idea of first fruits, that you give the very best that you have, trusting that God will complete what He started in your life?

And you won't have to worry about your provision tomorrow because when you give it to Him and trust Him with it, He will give you everything you need. How will He not also, with Christ, give you every good gift?

### **The Gospel and Debt**

We could keep going and just walk through...how do we counsel people in the area of finances? They're in debt. Why are they in debt? Because they went somewhere else to find great satisfaction, and they became an addict of a thing that didn't satisfy them. That's what's going on.

They thought that by buying more, I'll feel better. But it didn't make it better, so I kept buying. And I became a worshipper at the marketplace. And what they don't need is better financial counsel first. Rather, they need to repent and turn to Jesus Christ who's the only one who deeply satisfies their longing. Are we doing that, people?

Because if we're not, what we're telling people is Jesus is really good when it has to do with your standing with

God and your eternal destiny, but he doesn't really know a whole lot about finances.

## **The Gospel and Sex**

Okay. Let me try that on another one. What about sex? How many singles in the room? Okay. How many married people? All right. Amen. You're going, "Yeah, we love sex. It's good." When's the last time in your counsel in terms of sexuality you told somebody, "You know you should wait till you're married to have sex because you'll have better sex if you wait." Just so you know, if you're single, that's a lie. So you're going all like, "What's he doing?" Come on now.

You know what my free marriage counseling is? Your first night will be your worst. Do you know how you get good at sex? You have a lot of sex. That's how it works. I'm not lying, right? Married people, come on. Stand with me here. So anybody who's got a head on their shoulders is going to go, "I don't think you're right."

And they should challenge that because the reason why you wait to have sex till after you're married is because you're telling the story of Jesus Christ through your purity. That's why.

We don't wait to have sex till we're married so we can have better sex. We wait to have sex till we're married

because Jesus is the one who, with His own life, purchased his bride.

And then He said, "I will wait to return to consummate." You want to talk about someone who's waiting a long time? It's been over 2,000 years from my count, and He's doing pretty well at being faithful to His bride.

That's the story we're telling. It's not about you. It's about Jesus. Don't give people counsel about sexuality without helping them to understand the whole point of it is to tell the story of God's faithfulness to His bride. Okay, I guess I am going to preach.

## **The Gospel and Parenting**

Try parenting. How many of you use the consequences of sin to motivate your kids to not sin, right? You're like, "Son, you should be ashamed of yourself." Any of you guys ever done that?

How good is sin or shame at helping people overcome sin? Actually, if you use shame to help them overcome sin, what you're doing is teaching them how to sin. "You should be ashamed of yourself." What you're saying is, "Go hide because there's no one who would ever cover you."

Or you know what? "How could you do that?" And then we pour guilt on them. If you train your kids how to

behave by avoiding guilt, what they'll learn to do is find an atoning sacrifice some place else other than Jesus and use that means to learn to blame others.

Or "If you do that, I'm going to give you a spanking." Just so you know, I do spank my kids. But if the primary motivation for my kids' behavior is so they avoid getting punished, then I'm training my kids to avoid suffering for the sake of the gospel, okay?

Now, is there a consequence for sin that is pain? Absolutely. But how do I lead them to Jesus in my discipline is the question. Because the goal is train up a child in the way he should go so when he's old, he won't depart from it. Where am I training him? I'm training him to Jesus.

So I come downstairs hearing my kids screaming. And they're playing Chutes and Ladders. I hate that game, to be honest. The game that's worse than that is Candy Land because I'm competitive and you can't do anything to win that game.

You either, like me, have to believe in God's sovereignty and just say, "Okay, God, I guess you didn't want me to win." That's it. You can't strategize to win Candy Land. And Chutes and Ladders is a little bit better because you can try to spin the dial, but it's a cardboard one, so I'm not very hopeful about that game either.

I come down and my kids are yelling at each other. My son has one of the heads and it's ripped up in his hand. And my daughter is pointing at him going, "Kill it. Rip the head off". And Caleb, who is our middle child, is going, "She cheated!" And they're yelling at each other.

My youngest, Maggie, who's three, is sitting on the middle of the table just looking back and forth trying to figure out what's going on. And I go, "Okay. Hold on, who tore the head off? What's going on? Somebody tell me what's happening." They start yelling. And I said, "Okay, one at a time. I want to know who tore the head off. Otherwise, I'm going to have you each sit in your beds and I'm going to talk to you individually. We're going to figure this out."

And Maggie says, "I did." Well, Maggie is the one who likes to avoid punishment. So I think she figured if she could do that, she can get out of punishment. And so you'll hear in a little bit how we deal with punishment in a way that's gospel-centered in terms of pain. So I go, "Okay, hold on. I know you're not telling the truth." So I said, "Caleb, tell me what's going on?" And as soon as I ask him the question, he begins to do cover his head with his arms. And then he's covering up.

And I know what's going on because the consequence of sin is shame. And he doesn't know where to go with it. He doesn't know what to do with it.

So at that point I said, "Caleb, I want to remind you that there's one who took your shame. That Jesus was naked and ashamed on the cross and your sin was put on Him. And you don't ever have to hide again because your sin has been forgiven and cleansed, and you are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And no matter what you do, you will never have to hide." As I say it, he says, "I did it, Dad. I tore the head off." And he starts crying. And I just hold him and say, "Son, I love you. Jesus died for you. He died for your sin. You never have to hide."

Now, if I don't do that, I'm teaching my son how to hide and he'll become a deceiver. And at that point, Haylee says, "See, I told you. Told you he did it." And I go, "Okay, now I'm going to talk to you."

And I said, "Sweetie, I want to remind you that you don't ever need to blame because there's one who took the blame for your sin and Caleb's. If you're going to point the finger at anybody, point it at Jesus who hung on the cross for this. Let him take the blame for Caleb. You don't need to find another atoning sacrifice. You don't need to find another scapegoat. There is one and it's Jesus. Go to Him."

And as I did that, she started crying, "Dad, I'm so sorry. I keep doing that. Why do I keep blaming people?" She's just weeping. And I said, "Sweetie, it's because you've forgotten about Jesus. That's why you do it. If you were thinking about His sacrifice for you, you would not feel any need to blame."

And then I prayed over them. I said, "Lord, would you just remind them that Your sacrifice is sufficient? They don't need to hide. They don't need to blame." And she just grabbed me and hugged me.

And that's real right sorrow. See, the sorrow isn't over the game. The sorrow is that they turned away from Jesus. That's the sorrow. I want sorrow over that, not sorrow over a stupid game. I want them to recognize that their hearts were not turning to the cross, to the hope they find in Christ. That's what I want them to find.

Some of you are going like, "Well, how do you discipline, man? You just took away all my tools." You lead them to Jesus. You say, "You don't need to be ashamed. You don't need to blame." So you're going to go, "What about spanking?" Well, this is how I spank when I need to. I just say, "Sweetie..." This is with Maggie. "Daddy's going to give you a spanking, and the reason why is because your sin hurts people."

But in particular, it hurts Jesus to the point of Him needing to die for you. This spanking is not even going to be close to what you deserve because the Bible says that when you disobey your parents, you're deserving of death, in Romans 2." Right? It says it. I read it with my kids. "Disobedience to parent, which is deserving of death." "So Maggie, you deserve to die. You're going to get a spanking because someone else died in your place.

And I want this little pain to remind you that someone took the greater pain for you. And I don't want you to be afraid of the greater pain because there is no greater pain. Fear has to do with death, and you don't have to die for your sins." Make sense?

What I'm doing is taking every element of the gospel, the truths that are in Christ's life, death, resurrection, ascension, and second coming, and applying them to the real stuff of life. We can do this, family. We must.

Do you want to train your kids up into Jesus? You better give them Jesus, not something other than Jesus. Do you want to train your church up into Jesus? You better give them Jesus whenever you teach, whenever you train. It better be Jesus that you're giving them. If you are not, you're not a Christian teacher. Please hear that. If you give them something other than Jesus for their hope in life, you are a false teacher at that point.

## A Better Life, But Not A Better Gospel

Seriously, this has got to be dealt with in the church. We are giving people lots of fun steps for how to have a better life and they're not getting Jesus. Think about work. How many times have you had someone come to you and go, "Hey, you know, I had a horrible day at work. My boss is such a jerk." And we use it to go like, "Oh, yeah. I know what you mean. Yeah, I'm sorry." And you'd usually join them at it, right?

But here's what we probably should tell them. First of all, you shouldn't have a job. You should be dead, right? I tell my kids this almost every day. If they are complaining, "Oh, my goodness. I didn't get the front seat." "Okay. Hold on, guys, what do you deserve right now?" "Death." This is way better. It doesn't get much better. Come on now. And so maybe you should start there.

But let's go a little further. Do they really work for that boss? No. See, if they're a child of God, they work for the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. They have a boss who came down and served them at the point of giving His life for us. When you go to work, you work for the Servant of All who died for you.

And they might go, "I don't get paid enough." Are you

kidding? You are co-heir with Christ. How much more money do you need? You have the richest of eternal glory. "Yeah, but you know what? I didn't get that promotion I deserved."

You're seated in the heavenly realms with Christ Jesus. How much higher do you need to get in the company? "But I don't get recognized like I should." God has clothed you with the righteousness of Christ.

And He loves you as a dearly loved child of God. How much more recognition do you need?

If you're not satisfied with that, nothing will satisfy you. And you will work tirelessly to find satisfaction in something other than Jesus and it will always come up short.

Okay, what I'm trying to help you understand is every single question you ask, every single problem you face, every single situation you counsel through, can be dealt with in the life, the death, the resurrection, the ascension, and the second coming of Jesus Christ. Every one of them.

## **Four Questions To Help Apply The Gospel**

And I'll just give you one that I did with my wife more recently. I actually do all four questions to help people

walk through this. And these aren't new, so there's nothing special.

1) The first question is, "Who is God?"

2) The second question is, "What has He done?" And in particular, in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

3) The third question is, "Who am I?"

4) And the fourth question is, "In light of all that, what do we do?"

What often happens for the church is we teach people only the imperatives, what the Bible says you should do. Have you ever heard someone say, "The Bible says it. That's good enough for me. So I do it."

And on one hand that's true, but what they usually mean is, when it says love your enemies, just love your enemies because it says it.

But I want to let you know there's a better reason than just, "It says it," okay? "I love my enemies because God is a God who loves His enemies. And I know that because of the work of Jesus, that when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me.

So now, although I was an enemy, I am now loved like a child of God. Therefore, I love my enemies." So if you spend all your time over here, you end up just teaching moralism.

And I'll just tell you what happened with my wife. We were over here and she said, "Man, I..." She was really worried and anxious. And so I just said, "Let's work this backwards. When you're anxious, what are you believing about yourself, sweetie?"

And she said, "Oh, that's a good question." She said, "I'm believing I'm in control." I said, "Okay." I said, "Are you?" She says, "No, I guess that's why I'm anxious." By the way, that's a good start. Figure that one out.

Then next I said, "Well, what do you believe God has done? Why are you feeling the way you are in light of what you believe about God's work?" And she said, "I believe He's abandoned me." And I said, "Okay, what does that tell you about what you believe about God?"

And she said, "I believe that He's distant, that he doesn't care." Then she said, "You know what I really believe? I believe God's impotent." I see you guys are going like, "Oh, my goodness. Your wife is a mess." No, she's just honest. By the way, you don't get to real, genuine repentance until you get that honest.

And so she said, "I don't believe that though. I don't really believe that God is impotent." And I said, "Sweetheart, what do you believe? What do you believe about God?" And she said, "I believe He is powerful." And I said, "Okay."

By the way, let me pause. What usually happens when people are worried? What do we usually tell them as Christians? "Don't worry. Be happy." Sometimes we get theological and we go, "Don't worry. God's in control." And that's a good next step, but it's still not Christian. It's true. It's not Christian.

Because how do you know God? Through Jesus Christ. If you want to know what God is like, you look at Jesus. So at this point, you go, "How do I know God is powerful?" Because when it looks really, really bad, Jesus is hanging on a cross. The God man has been killed at the hands of sinful men, dying for the sins of the world.

And the people He's dying for are spitting on Him, mocking Him, killing Him. This is as bad as it gets, but it gets worse, folks. Because He dies. And He's in a tomb for three days.

Now, if that isn't bad, it doesn't get any worse than that if you don't know God's eternal plan. But the reality is even in that bad of a situation, God is completely in control the whole time. The whole time.

So I go to Jayne and I said, "Well, how do you know He's powerful?" "Because of the resurrection." I said, "In light of the resurrection, who are you?" She said, "I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus." "So that's right, sweetie. If you believed all of that, how would you live?" She said, "I would have peace."

## Theology Without Jesus

I want you to understand this: telling people theological answers without Christological answers is leading them not necessarily in the Christian way but just in a theistic way. We know God. He came in flesh. We have real hope. It's true.

God became a man and did everything you couldn't do so that you can experience everything you couldn't apart from God entering into your life by His Spirit. And He did this in Jesus. We have to give people Jesus.

Do you want people to be able to proclaim the gospel well, to trust in Christ more, and to cherish him richly when you sing songs? You have to give Jesus to them in every aspect of their life so the whole of their life is all about Jesus. Some of you guys are going, "Okay, how does this work?" Let me give you another example.

One of the ways that I do this is I usually try to say, "How

is Jesus the better right now?" How is Jesus the better? By the way, let me just encourage you, try a little exercise with your people. Ask them to identify the truth about God as seen in the person and work of Jesus that would enable them to address their disobedience problems. Just ask them that question.

You'll see how well they are versed in gospel centrality. Or it may just be like I did with work or parenting or money or sex. Do they have a gospel answer? Do they have a Jesus-centered answer for the things they are facing or struggling through?

I had a little check with my spirit. Earlier when I said, "You might be a false teacher," I wanted to say, "You just may not have learned how to do this." So let me correct that, okay? Some of you are like, "Gosh, man, I feel full of guilt." That's not my intent. The cross covered that, okay? I just felt like the spirit just wanted me to say that.

There is tons of grace for all of us who are still learning how to be faithful in preaching the truths of Jesus to the people God has given us. So just receive that. Don't let the enemy in any way put guilt on you and don't let me do that. That's even contrary to what I'm saying. Lord, please forgive me for that. And just let it be released, okay?

Don't you love the spirit of God if you pay attention? Maybe that's the best message I could give you is you can screw up like crazy in front of thousands of people and still not be ashamed of yourself. Amen. Okay, we'll keep going.

## Helping People See Jesus Better

So what I do is I try to help people see how Jesus is the better, okay? Now, Tim Keller is brilliant at this. I'm learning a ton from him so I just thank God for him. But we were ministering to a woman that's a widow next to our home, and this was several years back. And she was having a guy who continued to take advantage of her and really hurt her.

And I remember one time we were having a conversation, she came over to our house one night and we were just talking. She was complaining quite a bit about this guy. And I pulled out a couple of glasses in front of me, and I just said, "Hey, Nicky, I just want to let you know you worship this guy." And she's like, "No, I don't." I said, "Yeah, you do."

Any time your life rises or falls on a particular thing or person, that's called worship." And so she says, "Eww, that's gross." I said, "I know. He's not a very good object of worship, is he?" She's like, "No way."

By the way, when you help people identify the things they worship, it's so easy to talk about Jesus because you just talk about how He's better. So I just started. I said, "Let me tell you about a guy. This guy, He is the most amazing man you'll ever meet. He loves you even when you're a mess. He'll never leave you or forsake you. He will be patient with you with all your shortcomings. He will be devoted to you becoming more beautiful day by day.

And even if you don't, He will still love you. And you know what? No matter what you do, that love will never change. See, He loves you so much He laid down his life for you."

She says, "Who is he?" And she was a good Catholic girl growing up. And I said, "It's Jesus." She went, "Oh, I want a man with flesh." She's a pretty spunky Mexican. You know what she's talking about. So I said, "Well, he took on flesh for you." She said, "Yeah, but I want Him here right now." I said, "He is here right now by His spirit, right now, in Jayne and I." And she said, "You know what? I want a man just like you." And that was uncomfortable at that moment. And I said, "No, you don't. No, you don't.

The truth is I'm just like this guy apart from Jesus. If you've seen me love my wife well or be patient or care for her or build her up or make her more beautiful, it's

because a while ago Jesus took over my life. And He is loving my wife through me. And so if you've seen any of that, you don't want this guy. You want this guy. You want Jesus Christ."

And I said, "Here's the deal, Nicky. If you get Jesus Christ, you get the love of another kind and it allows you to forgive guys like me. It allows you to give grace to guys like me because you've received a love that can handle when you're not loved well. And until you get this, you're never going to be able to love or forgive or give grace to anybody.

That's what you're looking for. You're looking for Jesus." And a few days later, Jesus by His spirit broke into her life and led her into a night of prayer where she confessed her sin. And she started praying for the people who had hurt her, asking that God's grace would break into their life and forgive them as well.

And she came over the next day and told my wife, she said, "I just want you to know I believe what you guys said. And I prayed all night and I turned my life over to Jesus."

And Jayne, my wife, said, "Well, who is Jesus to you now?" And she said, "Well, He's my father." I came home a little later, and Jayne told me that. I said, "Oh we didn't tell her about the trinity."

And then the Spirit said, "No, no, no, no, you don't understand this. She's looking for a man who will love her like a dad and she found that man in Jesus. Because if you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

Let's not give people something other than Jesus. I could have said, "You know what? Get rid of that jerk. He's a jerk. You don't want to find a guy like that. You got to find a different guy. Let me help you find a good guy." Right? And you start giving them all kinds of dating advice. Forget that. Until she gets Jesus, she doesn't need a man. She needs to get THE man, right?

Family, let's devote ourselves to being so fluent in being able to proclaim the truths of the gospel into everyday life that we don't give another answer other than the life, and death, and resurrection, and ascension, and second coming of Jesus Christ. Can we do that? Could we work on that? Some of you guys are going, "This is hard work." Let me tell you something. You don't get equipped in things if you don't work at them.

## **Equipping Others in Gospel Fluency**

And I'll just give you one last thing for those of you equippers, and then I'll be done. This is the way it works for equipping. I'm going to try and write on this again

just so you guys know. I know it's going to be a mess, but here we go.

When you start equipping people, you start with unconscious incompetence. By the way, as I was talking and I said, "Hey, when you talk about finances, do you talk about Jesus?" Some of you went, "Gosh, I don't know how to do that." Right? And that's okay. But at that point, you move from unconscious incompetence to conscious incompetence.

If you want to equip disciples, your job is to help them understand what they don't know. It is to help them become aware that they didn't really know Jesus like they thought they knew Jesus. That's your job. You don't just go, "I'm just going to give him just a little bit of Jesus so they can get to heaven when they die.

I don't want to give them too much. That's enough and then we'll move on." No, you keep helping them understand that they don't really know Him as well as they thought they did and they are supposed to devote their whole life to knowing Him.

So you keep revealing more and more about Him so they go, "Oh, I didn't know that. And I never thought about that." "Do you really expect me to go tell my friends about Jesus? I don't think I can do that." But that's what you are called to do. And I'm not going to let

you get away without being obedient to grow up in Jesus.

So I want you to feel the reality that you are not competent. I'm not going to do it for you so you live in a state of ignorance about your incompetence and being a child of God who is faithful to make disciples. I am going to call it out. I'm not going to shame you with it. I just want you to be aware you should know how to do this so I want to grow you up into it.

## **How Jesus Did It**

So you start with unconscious incompetence. You make them aware that they're not able to do something so that they're hungry.

Remember when Jesus sends them out in pairs? Why does he do that? So that they'll realize they don't have a clue what they're doing. We don't know how to deal with demons. Okay, I guess we're hungry. Jesus better teach us.

If you're not doing that with disciples, you're not doing it with your children, then they're never going to be hungry to grow and to be developed. Don't just do Bible studies. Lead them out into a life that requires that they actually believe it, not just that they know it, okay?

So unconscious incompetence leads you want to get them to conscious incompetence. And this is where most of us stop. Some of you are going to go, "Yeah, I don't know how to do that. I don't want to learn. Sounds like a lot of work." Right?

And I know that some of you are going to do that. Please don't. Devote yourself to knowing Christ. Devote yourself to applying the truths of the gospel to absolutely everything in your life.

So you want to move now to conscious competence. And this is the most painful part of development. If you know sports, like when I golf, when I started learning golfing, they're like, "Okay, you got to stand up straight." I'm like, "Okay, I'm straight." "Okay, now act like you're sitting on a stool." "Okay, I'll do that. Okay?" "No, a little bit. Okay, up. Okay, down. Up, up. Okay, down." Then you're like, "Come on. Just stop, okay?" "Now, put your arms out." "Okay, I got them out." "Okay. No, it's too bent. Okay, now you want to..." You're like, "Dude, this is so painful."

And then you're swinging. This doesn't feel right. It's awkward. And you have to hit hundreds of balls, thousands of balls, tens of thousands of balls, hundreds of thousands of balls, and I've still got a darn slice?

And you know what? The only way I get good at it is by doing it over and over and over and over and over and not letting myself off the hook. And you know that conscious competence learning is the most painful learning.

But you get to a place where it becomes unconscious competence and you're just doing it and you don't even realize it. It's just flowing out of you. That's what we need to be.

We need to be gospel-fluent people who don't even have to think about it. It's like the gospel just rolls off our lips. It's like every issue that we face, we got gospel all over it. When we look at the world, we look at it through the lens of Jesus's life, death, resurrection, ascension, and second coming.

We don't know how to look at the world without that being our lens. That's our new worldview. That's our new language. It's our mother tongue. And it just happens because we actually had worked at it.

Let me just encourage you towards something: Devote yourself to being so gospel-fluent that you don't know how to give another answer other than the gospel of Jesus Christ for the problems people are facing. Just devote yourself to it. We are the gospel people. We are Jesus people. Can we do that? Would you guys work at

that? If you want more on this, you can look up some of the stuff that we do. You just look up gospel fluency and my name and there's a lot more training on it.

But my heart is that we would just love Jesus so much that we couldn't stop talking about Him and we would never give anybody another answer other than what He has done and who He is and how sufficient He is for every single question you're facing.

One of my good friends in England, Steve Timmis, often will say, "What's the question? Jesus is the answer."

I pray that that will be true for us.

What's the question?

Jesus is the answer.