

Making Disciples *As You Go*
Lesson 10: Character Fundamentals
Being a Person of Convictions

I. Introduction:

“To be effective, the discipler should be practicing the content of the discipling with more maturity than is the disciple. A disciple is not usually motivated to go on and mature in an area of life he suspects that his trainer is a failure at.” – Dr. Howard Bixby

So, for the next couple of weeks we are going to look at some _____ issues essential to discipleship by looking at various people from both the Old and New Testaments.

II. Being a Person of Convictions:

Notice what James writes:

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (James 3:1)

When you undertake the work of making disciples who make disciples you are undertaking the work of _____. The warning here is to understand the responsibility to live out what you call others to do. That requires that we be men and women of _____.

Definition:

A “Conviction” is an _____ truth or belief that you stand on even to your own _____. Therefore, a Biblical conviction is an internalized Biblical truth or belief that you stand on even to your own hurt.

This morning we are going to illustrate the importance of convictions by contrasting the lives of two men: King Uzziah and Azariah, the high priest from 2 Chronicles 26.

➤ See 2 Chronicles 26:1-15

Q. What do we learn about Uzziah from these verses?

➤ See 2 Chronicles 26:16-21

Don’t miss the drama unfolding here. Uzziah is at the height of his popularity and power. Uzziah does what Uzziah wants to do and right now he wants to unite in himself the offices of _____ and _____. And, Azariah says, in effect, “You shall not pass!”

The uniting on these two offices was to await the coming Messiah and it wasn’t for Kings to do the work of the priests.

⁷ And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, ⁸ and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the LORD throughout your generations. (Exodus 30:7-8)

³⁹ So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned had offered, and they were hammered out as a covering for the altar, ⁴⁰ to be a reminder to the people of Israel, so that no outsider, who is not of the descendants of Aaron, should draw near to burn incense before the LORD, lest he become like Korah and his company—as the LORD said to him through Moses. (Numbers 16:39-40)

Q. How can a well-developed set of Biblical convictions keep us from sin and help us to honor God? What role does faith play in the formation of and the living out of biblical convictions?

III. Forming Biblical Convictions:

1. You begin with the _____ teaching / commands / permanent principles of Scripture.
2. You add a decisive “_____” statement of action, belief, or intent in order to _____ that teaching.
3. You _____ on that internalized belief when the time comes without _____.

It must be noted that a preference and a conviction are _____ the same thing.

When it comes to preferential differences the Bible commands us to _____ one another.

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (Romans 15:1)

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

It must further be noted that it is the _____ believer who is willing to stand up for and potentially even die for their Biblical convictions while also being able to bear with (putting up with) the preferences of others (1 Corinthians 10:23-33). The _____ brother is the one who fights for his preferences. This fact often gets confused in the church.

Practical Exercise:

What possible Biblical conviction could be formed from the following texts?

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (Romans 12:11)

IV. Conclusion:

Azariah knew that it was given to the sons of Aaron to burn incense and to do otherwise would be to defile the Temple so he was going to do whatever it took, stand up to whoever he had to too protect the purity of the Temple. He was a man of Biblical conviction and if we are to reproduce Biblical Christ-followers we too must be people of Biblical convictions showing grace in issues of preference but willing to stand up for what the Bible says is right and willing to stand against what the Bible says is wrong.

V. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)