

10. Developing Leaders Who Are Filled with Boldness

In the past several topics, we have been talking about how to help developing leaders learn to yield to the Spirit, walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit so that their lives are bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Today, we will learn how to help these developing leaders learn to speak the Word of God with boldness as they are led by the Holy Spirit. Christ did several key things to help the disciples learn to speak the Word of God with boldness. These included:

- learning what to speak
- learning how to speak
- learning to speak with boldness

In the process of training His disciples, the Lord gave them Four Calls and a Commission. These give us five E's for ministry. Those calls and a commission include:

- ♦ evangelize – “Come and See” – John 1:39-46; Matthew 9:9-10; Mark 1:30-33
- ♦ edify – “Come and Grow” – Mark 1:16-20
- ♦ equip – “Come and Serve” – Mark 3:13-15
- ♦ expand the leadership – “Come and Shepherd” – John 21:15-17
- ♦ extend – “As you are going, Make Disciples” – Matthew 28:19-20

It was during the first two stages of their development that Christ really focused on helping the disciples learn what to speak. From the time that Christ first invited some of the disciples to begin spending time with Him, in John 1:39-46, until He invited them to come and grow, in Mark 1:16-20, was a period of about a year. Then, it was an additional six to nine months before He chose the Twelve to be with Him in Mark 3:13-15. We will see how Christ was teaching the disciples what to speak throughout this time.

When Christ first met some of the disciples in John 1, they began spending time with Him. They went along with Him to the wedding in Cana in John 2:1-12. John 2:11-12 says, “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.” The disciples were with Him as He went to the Passover in Jerusalem in John 2:13-25.

John 3 shows that the disciples were with Christ in Judea prior to the time that John the Baptist was put in prison. John 3:22-24 says, “After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison.” They were with Him as He returned through Samaria. John 4:8 says, “For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.”

Then, in Matthew 4:12, we see that Christ went into Galilee after John was cast into prison. That verse says, “Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.” Then, Matthew 4:23 says, “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease

among the people.” Since Galilee had two hundred and three towns and villages that had a synagogue, the disciples heard Christ preach some things in many different places.

Mark 1:35-39 shows us that Christ also took the disciples with Him during that time. Those verses tell us, “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, ‘Everyone is looking for You.’ But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.” Since the disciples were traveling with Christ, they got to hear what He taught and see how He taught.

These times of teaching all happened before Christ chose the twelve. We see that He chose the Twelve from the larger group of disciples after much prayer. Luke 6:12-13 says, “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.” Mark 3:13-15 tells us why He chose the Twelve. Those verses say, “And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons...”

For eighteen to twenty-one months, the disciples had been listening to Christ preach, so, they knew what to speak. During this time, they were also being shown how to speak. It was only after being shown both what to speak and how to speak that Christ sent out the Twelve. When He sent out the Twelve the first time, Christ gave them very specific instructions. In Matthew 10:5-8 we read, “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”’ The following verses show us the other lesson Christ was teaching was that He would supply their needs.

Later, in Luke 10, Christ sent out seventy disciples. This included “the Twelve” plus fifty-eight other disciples. Luke 10:1-3 says, “After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.”’ Christ wanted the seventy to learn both that He would protect them and also supply their needs. However, none of these things equipped them to preach the Word of God with boldness.

After the death and resurrection of Christ, He gave them the key to boldness in Luke 24:46-49. There we read, “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these

things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” The disciples had been shown what to speak and how to speak but they were to wait for the Holy Spirit in order to speak with boldness.

They prayed and waited until the Day of Pentecost. Then, in Acts 2:4-7, we see what happened when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Those verses say, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?’” The disciples spoke the word with boldness in many different languages.

In Acts 4:8, we read, “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...” When he finished speaking, Acts 4:13 says, “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” When told to not speak any more in the name of Jesus, their answer is given in Acts 4:19-20, “But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’”

Peter and John immediately gathered together with the other Christians and prayed. The conclusion to their prayer, and the results, is seen in Acts 4:29-31. In those verses we read, “‘Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” They prayed for boldness, and the Lord gave them boldness.

Later, Paul asked the Christians in Ephesus to pray for him. His request is found in Ephesians 6:19-20 where he asked them to pray, “...and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” Even Paul knew that He must pray that the Lord would give him boldness to speak the Word of God.

We help developing leaders learn what to speak and how to speak as we take them with us and show them. However, that is not enough. In all of these verses, we see that boldness is the result of praying for boldness and depending on the power of the Holy Spirit, instead of trying to speak in our own strength. This is one of the key lessons developing leaders need to learn. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders learn to pray for boldness and depend on the Holy Spirit to give them the power to speak the Word of God with boldness.