

Creating a Life Giving Atmosphere for Those We Disciple

1 Thessalonians 2:3-13

Versus 3-4:

What were Paul's motives, purpose and sense of calling as he shared the gospel with the audience of Thessalonica?

What 3 elements did *not* exist in his appeal, according to verse 3?

How did Paul view himself?

What actions and perspectives might we take if we seek only to please people as we disciple others?

Versus 5-6:

Why do you think Paul was careful about offering any praise that might be considered flattery to the people to whom he ministered? What is the difference between flattery and sincere praise?

Why was it important for Paul not to seek praise from those he ministered to?

As we disciple others, why is it important that we neither offer false praise nor seek praise?

How will this approach to praise create trust in our discipling relationship?

Versus 7-8

While he could have played the "authoritative apostle card", Paul was gentle among them like a mother caring for her little children. How does the image of a nurturing Paul influence your ideas about building a safe environment for discipleship?

How might our commitment to love well color the atmosphere we seek as we help others grow?

Think again of the picture of a mother caring gently for her little children. How are the principles of avoiding flattery, not letting people dodge potentially painful growth, and teaching the Word become intrinsic to this picture?

Versus 9-10

Paul purposed not to burden the Thessalonians while he was with them, in what ways could we possibly burden those we are discipling?

Why is it important that we live holy and blameless lives as we engage in relationship with those we help?

How is living blamelessly different from people thinking we are perfect?

Verse 11-12

Paul also described himself as a father among the Thessalonians. How might Paul have been like a father as he connected to this community?

What characteristics of a father should we seek to bring to the environment of discipling?

Verse 13

What was Paul especially thankful for and why did he emphasize this?

Paul never stopped thanking God and praying for those he helped. In what ways can we integrate prayer into the climate we create for those we disciple?

Paul affirmed that the Thessalonians accepted the Word of God as from God not men. Why do you think he pointed this out to them?

Paul wrote, “[The Word of God] is really at work in you who believe”. Why do we need to keep this truth central in our discipling context?

Practical Tips

How to create a life-giving atmosphere? Focus on:

1. Confidentially
2. Relationships
3. Affirmation
4. Intentionality
5. Love

WORKS CITED

Yeakley, Dana. *The Gentle Art of Discipling Women: Nurturing Authentic Faith in Ourselves and Others*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, a NavPress Resource Published in Alliance with Tyndale House, 2015