

"Rethinking Church" - #3

Mark 3:13-19

Some things we've learned:

- **Church is not an event but a community.** "Let us consider one another..." [Heb 10:24]
- **Church is when we gather to encourage one another.** "Forsake not assembling..." [Heb 10:25]
- **Church is not clergy centered.** "He gave leaders for the equipping of the believers..." [Eph 4:12]
- **Church is about every believer being equipped.** "...by what every joint supplies." [Eph 4:16]

Two questions:

- **HOW does this equipping best happen?**
- **WHAT keeps us from engaging in deep relationship where this best happens?**

1. Jesus equipped "the 12" through intimate, purposeful relationship.

- He chose 12 men to be with Him.
- His goal was to send them out to proclaim the good news.

Quote: "Jesus was deeply concerned for the continuation of his redemptive, reconciling work after the close of His earthly existence, and his chosen method was the formation of a small band of committed friends. He did not form an army, establish a headquarters, or even write a book. What he did was to collect a few very common men and women, inspire them with the sense of his spirit and vision, and build their lives into an intensive fellowship of affection, worship and work... In the gospel, Jesus indicates that there is absolutely no substitute for the tiny, caring reconciling society. If this fails, he suggests, all is failure; there is no other way..."

Elton Trueblood, "The Strategy of Jesus"

2. What are the barriers that keep us from this kind of deep, equipping relationship?

- Fear of being exposed
- Fear of being controlled
- Fear of accountability
- Not sure where to find this kind of relationship
- Desire someone to "take care" of us
- Not convinced of its effectiveness
- Time issues
- What it ultimately costs