

Equipped to Do Kingdom Exploits

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A careful look at Jesus' public ministry reveals that four stages comprised His work in preparing His disciples. Mark 3:14 asserts that Jesus "appointed twelve, that they might be with Him..." The first half of Jesus time with His disciples was characterized by intense relationship-building and teaching. There were only 9 miracles recorded during this time. One might call this phase "**Foundations.**"

A transition comes when Jesus begins to impart authority and to send out The Twelve and later The Seventy (cf. Luke 9 & 10), empowering them to minister with His authority to heal the sick, cast out demons, etc. This second stage could be called "**Equipping & Releasing.**"

Thirdly, these dedicated followers of our Lord went from village to village **doing exploits of power and winning people to the Kingdom.**

Finally, this ministry paradigm was multiplied yielding a huge number of Christians – or "**Little Christ's.**"

In North America, 97% of the Church expends 100% of its resources on the Foundations phase. We have great teaching (Bible Studies, etc.), fellowship, and other basic foundational resources. However, little or no focus is made on the other stages of discipleship. Consequently, the Church has lacked power and is in decline.

In the majority world (Africa, Asia and South America) the Church (even the Anglican Provinces!) are growing significantly. Why? Because the Church is not only seeing that the people are established in the disciplines of the Faith – Bible Study, Prayer, etc. – but they are being equipped to do Kingdom exploits.

- How to share their Faith?
- How to lead others to personal Faith in Jesus?
- How to Heal the Sick?
- How to cast out demons?

The Anglican Diocese of Singapore has practical "modules" used to train their people in Kingdom basics and have seen profound growth! They have over 30 "How To" modules that are used to train Jesus-followers in doing Kingdom exploits.

Sadly, the majority of the North American Church has been centered on programs, filling people mostly with head knowledge. While this is a good thing in and of itself in establishing "foundations," we have not taken our people far enough to include mentoring in Kingdom practices. Thus, the Church is anemic and lacking in power.

Let me tell you, if we begin to see people healed and prayer answered on a regular basis, we will see huge growth in our parishes. This is centered on the concept of "spiritual renewal" recapturing the vitality and power evident in the New Testament Church.

This is happening all around us! We simply need to explore the ways people are applying Jesus apprenticeship model to see lives touched and transformed by the love of God!

As Director of The International Order of St. Luke the Physician for Eastern Canada, I would be happy to organize teams of clergy and lay people to come to your parish to train and equip folks who desire to follow their Lord and minister in power. Simply email me at john_roddam@hotmail.com and I'll work with your parish leadership.