

“We train disciplemakers...”



The
Bicycle
Illustration
— p. 2



“Herman”
who? Part 2
— p. 3

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Making Disciples Naturally Podcast

*Jesus: Master
Disciplemaker
Recap of Spring
Men's Retreat
June 22, 29, July 6, 13*

The Bicycle Illustration — page 2

What will keep you
from sin?
— page 2

Hearing from God
through His Word, Part 2
See the article
by Larry Beck
on page 3

Mark your calendars for our
Fall Conference
October 5, 2024
Special guest speaker:
Bill Mowry, Navigator and
author of “The Way of the
Alongsider,” “Walk with Me”
and other books
and resources.

Camping and Christianity

Some of you enjoy camping and summer is a typical time to pursue that experience (heat notwithstanding!). We belong to a Christian group of RV'ers (sowerministry.org) who travel to various Christian camps around the country, staying for three weeks at a time and working to help the camp in whatever way we can. This may include painting, carpentry, or just plain cleaning.



Recently it struck me that these experiences are (or should be) similar to our lives on earth as believers in Jesus. For example,

- Our goal should be to work to improve things at these camps and enhance their ministry to others, not to just please ourselves. In the process we bring glory to God.
- It may be expensive to invest three weeks of our time, including the cost of the camper, gasoline, etc.
- We develop deep bonds of friendship with other workers during these work sessions.
- We realize we are there only on a temporary basis. These camps are not our final home.

In the same way, our goal while on earth should be to live for others and for the Lord. Investment in the Lord's work may be costly. We need each other in fellowship and co-laboring. Finally, we're here on earth for a relatively short time — this isn't our final home!

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“The message of the Lord of Heaven's Armies then came to me, ‘Speak to all the people and priests of the land as follows: “When you fasted and lamented in the fifth and seventh months through all these 70 years, did you truly fast for me—for me, indeed? And now when you eat and drink, are you not doing so for yourselves?” ’ ”

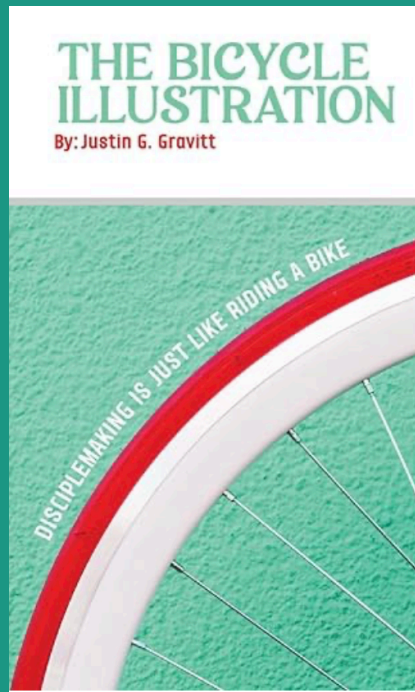
—Zechariah 7:4-6 (NET Bible)

The Bicycle Illustration by Justin G. Gravitt Pub. 2024 One Disciple to Another

I've been listening to Justin's excellent podcast "The Practitioner's Podcast: Applying Jesus Style Discipleship" for several seasons now. It is sponsored by Navigators Church Ministries. This little book is an excellent visual summary of the discipling process.

The subtitle is "Discipling is just like riding a bike!"

From the book: "The Bicycle Illustration will empower you to become a discipler. Inside you will discover the essential elements of discipling, common challenges that hinder progress, and practical steps to overcome them. Best of all you can use it to help others become disciplers as well!"



If you've been around The Navigators © or the Kansas Communities Ministry for any length of time, many of the illustrations in the book will be familiar to you (The Wheel, FAT - Faithful, Available, Teachable, etc.). But Justin also offers some new ideas (the front wheel spokes he likens to "teach them what, tell them why, show them how, get them started, keep them going, help them pass it on)."

He also gives answers to common questions such as "What is a disciple?", "How do I know if I'm ready to make a disciple?", "Who should I invite into a discipling relationship?", "How should I invite someone?", "How do I know when that person is ready to disciple someone else?" and "When should I stop discipling that person?"

Justin brings a coherence to discipling questions that is refreshing and memorable. We highly recommend this little book, found on Amazon and other sources.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

"This Book will keep you away from sin — or sin will keep you away from this Book."

— Howard Hendricks
— Vol. 3 pages 75-80

Howard Hendricks related that early in his life, a Sunday School teacher had given him a Bible. Inside the front cover was written the following note. "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book." ... When I was about ten years of age, my mother started me on a scripture memory program. It was not ... a few isolated verses. She recommended an entire chapter of the Bible! The one she started me on was not an ordinary chapter by any means. I learned later that it was, in fact, the longest chapter of the Bible! It contained 176 verses, each arranged in a series of eight verses. (For each eight verses I memorized, I would earn a dime.) Early in my scripture memory program, I came across this verse in Psalm 119:11. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." There is no doubt that she was very familiar with this verse and had chosen these series of verses carefully so as to impact my life with the word of God in such a way that it would keep me from sin. The Bible has much to say about its purpose in keeping us from sin. In I John 2:1, we read the following. "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin." Perhaps the most prominent example of how either the Bible keeps us from sin, or sin keeps us from the Bible is seen in the life of King Solomon. **"This Book will keep you away from sin."**

"When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel." Deuteronomy 17:18-20. OR **"Sin will keep you away from this Book."** Which path did Solomon choose to follow? Sadly, we read the following in II Chronicles 9:25 and 28: "Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem." ...

As we spend time daily in His word, learning to fear the LORD our God, our lives are being changed into His likeness by His Spirit, enabling us to "keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them." Thus the truth of the statement, "This Book will keep you from sin," will become a reality in our lives.
In Christ, Richard Spann

Hearing from God through His Word: The Science and Art of Hermeneutics, Part 2 by Larry Beck

Below is a listing of some basic rules of hermeneutics. Using these rules is a learning endeavor and is truly a work as Paul notes in **II Timothy 2:15**, but is profitable for any Bible student and, in my opinion, incumbent upon anyone taking on the responsibility of preaching or teaching.



These are not listed in any specific order. Some examples have been provided for clarity purposes. There are many scholars far more eloquent and qualified than myself to expound upon these matters, but I am learning to use these rules and pray they are of value to you.

Pray before and throughout your study for the Holy Spirit's aid to guide you to an accurate understanding of the truth. Pray afterward as you review your conclusions for the Holy Spirit to reveal any erroneous conclusions you may have made. This is not a rule of hermeneutics, but necessary for any study of scripture. We need to communicate with the author to aid in understanding what He meant by what He caused to be written.

-Endeavor to understand something of the historical and cultural background at the time the book was written. For example, the issues of meat sacrificed to idols and the length of women's hair or head coverings as addressed in I Corinthians. Understanding the culture of the time concerning issues like these is helpful.

A good study Bible often provides notes relative to the author and time of the writing, background, historical and theological themes and interpretive challenges. The MacArthur Study Bible is an excellent resource in this regard. Provision of such information aids in the hermeneutic principles immediately noted below:

Who wrote it? Who was it written to? When was it written?

-What did the words mean at the time they were written?

-What did it mean to the first recipients?

-Resist the temptation to read into the text (what theologians refer to as "eisegesis") something that isn't there, or interpret the text based on personal opinions or things previously heard from others. Almost everyone who has ever read and studied the Bible does this and thus caution is warranted.

(continued on next page)

"Our worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace." ~ Jerry Bridges, Former Navigator Staff, Author. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/1899-Jerry_Bridges

Biblical Interpretation (continued)

-The meaning of words and their repetitive use in multiple passages of scripture. A deeper understanding can often be gleaned from doing word studies alone.

A good concordance like Strongs, with its numbering system, is helpful in seeing how a Greek or Hebrew word is translated into English and used or perhaps translated differently elsewhere in scripture. This can be particularly important where some Greek or Hebrew words are translated into English in different ways in different contexts and based on the version of the English Bible being read. In this regard, resources like the Vines Expository Dictionary or other Greek-English Lexicons, and the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament are helpful in researching the meaning of words from the original languages as translated into English. As an example, John MacArthur notes in his book entitled *Preaching*, that the word “Lion” is used as a metaphor in reference to Babylon (**Jeremiah 4**), Satan (**I Peter 5:8**), and Christ (**Revelation 5:5**). Understanding the context, grammar and type of literature involved can have significant implications for accurate interpretation.

Another example is the Greek word “glossa” translated as “**tongue**” or “**tongues**.” This Greek word is used in reference to the physical organ of the body, to tongues as of fire which appeared at Pentecost (**Acts 2**) or in reference to the spiritual or supernatural gift of languages (Reference **I Corinthians 12-14**). There is another word I think of as a synonym, “dialektos” from which we get our English word “dialect;” “Dialektos” is translated in English as “**language**” or “**dialect**” in the NT (reference **Acts 1:19**).

It's valuable to note that the Greek words “glossa” and “dialektos” are both used in **Acts 2** on the day of Pentecost and reveal specifically that these terms are a reference to a human language or dialect as enabled by the Holy Spirit for primarily evangelistic reasons. In addition, wherever these words appear in the New Testament, they are always used in the context of human language or dialect and never as unintelligible utterances some claim as the supernatural gift of tongues they possess.

This distinction was particularly important to me as a young Christian as I was repeatedly in contact with people who claimed to speak in tongues, but their behavior was inconsistent with the biblical definition and use of the word in scripture.

- Context – of the verse and/or word being studied as encompassed by the preceding and following verses, previous and following paragraphs, chapters and in some cases the book.
 - Chapter (preceding and following); sometimes our English Bibles put chapter breaks where the flow of thought doesn't naturally break; watch for words like “therefore” at the beginning of a chapter as such wording points to some portion of the previous text.
 - Another example of context is from the Psalms and Prophetic books. It is beneficial to associate certain Psalms or prophecies (i.e., Isaiah and Jeremiah) with their historical context noted in the Old Testament history books like I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

It is suggested that at some point, the Bible be read with a chronological reading plan, or the plan kept as a study resource. Such a plan can be accessed at https://www.blueletterbible.org/assets-v3/pdf/dbrp/1Yr_ChronologicalPlan.pdf. This is helpful toward understanding the context as events, prophecies, and the narrative recorded are interrelated.

(to be continued in Part III)

“To lift Him up, to preach His name, and to invite souls to love Him and to follow Him is the highest, heavenliest privilege of human life.” ~ W. A. Criswell, Former Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/54438-W_A_Criswell