

Discipleship

Lesson - 6 Discipling the “Ordinary”

Memory Verse

Mark 1:16-18 “Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, *Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.* And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.”

*Tibor Rubin -2

The Hungarian son of a shoemaker and one of six children. Concentration camp at 13. Joined US Army. Anti-Semitic sergeant gave suicide missions. Held hill 24 hours alone. Captured 40 enemy. Manned last gun till ammunition was exhausted. POW would not go to Hungary when offered. 2005 Medal Of Honor. Said it was a miracle, God kept him alive, he was an just ordinary guy.

Humble Beginnings

***Luke 2:6-7** (NKJV) *So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:22-24 (NKJV) *Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”),²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”*

***Leviticus 12:8** (NKJV) *‘And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.’ ”*

John 1:23 (NKJV) *He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” You look for a grand platform to inaugurate a president*

***John 1:48** (NKJV) *Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”*

Matthew 10:29 (NKJV) *Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.*

Mark 6:2-4 (NKJV) *And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.”*

“The parents of Jesus were poor, and dependent upon their daily toil. He was familiar with poverty, self-denial, and privation. This experience was a safeguard to Him. In His industrious life there were no idle moments to invite temptation. No aimless hours opened the way for corrupting associations. So far as possible, He closed the door to the tempter. Neither gain nor pleasure, applause nor censure, could induce Him to consent to a wrong act. He was wise to discern evil, and strong to resist it.” - Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 72.

1Corinthians 1:26-29 *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.*

Transforming the “Common”

John 2:1-3 (NKJV) *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”*

Matthew 15:35-38 (NKJV) *So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.³⁷ So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left.³⁸ Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.*

John 6:12, 13 *So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.*

***John 20:7** (NKJV) *and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.*

A Flawed Fisherman's Calling

Luke 5:4–10 (NKJV) *When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." ⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."*

Harry Winston and the precious diamond in a common package.

John 21:3–6 (NKJV) *Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.*

Matthew 4:18–20 (NKJV) *And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

Heavenly Evaluation

Luke 12:6–7 (NKJV) *"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."*

Matthew 12:12 *How much then is a man better than a sheep?*

A Classless Society

Acts 10:34–35 (NKJV) *Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*

***Romans 2:10–11** (NKJV) *but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.*

Job 34:19 (NKJV) *Yet He is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands.*

James 2:1–4 (NKJV) *My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. ² For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³ and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," ⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?*

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. This verse is not meant to remove a distinction between children honoring parents or between the roles of men and women.*

Galatians 3:29 (NKJV) *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Moses

God did not choose Moses while he was a prince in Egypt it was after he had become an ordinary shepherd God called him.

Exodus 4:10–12 (NKJV) *Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ¹¹ So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? ¹² Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."*

Gideon

Judges 6:15–16 (NKJV) *So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”*

Ruth

An unknown Moabite widow chooses to leave everything and follow her bankrupt mother-in-law. Then becomes an ancestor of Jesus.

Ruth 1:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.”* ¹⁷ *Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.”*

Saul

1 Samuel 9:21 (NKJV) *And Saul answered and said, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?”*

1 Samuel 15:17 (NKJV) *So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?”* **Luke 14:11** *For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

David

1 Samuel 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.”*

2 Samuel 7:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ *Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.”* ⁹ *And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.*

2 Samuel 7:18 (NKJV) *Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?”*

Esther

Esther 4:11–14 (NKJV) *“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.”* ¹⁴ *... Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*

Isaiah

Isaiah 6:5, 8 (NKJV) ⁵ *So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”* ⁸ *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”*

Amos

Amos 7:14–15 (NKJV) *Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: “I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit.”* ¹⁵ *Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, And the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’*

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ *Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:* ⁵ *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”* ⁶ *Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”* ⁷ *But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.*

1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV) *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

Peter

Luke 5:8–11 (NKJV) *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” ...And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”* *So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.*

Think of the 12 disciples. They were just ordinary, run-of-the-mill fishermen – but look what God has done through them!

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

We Are All Called

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV) *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Noah got drunk and stumbled around naked, **Abraham** was a liar **Sarah** was impatient, **Isaac** played favorites, **Rebekah** was deceptive, **Jacob** was a cheater, **Joseph** was a dreamer, **Moses** was a murderer and had a speech impediment. Moses' sister **Miriam** was a gossip. **Gideon** looked for signs, **Samson** was a womanizer. **David** had an affair with a married woman and murdered her husband, **Elijah** battled discouragement, **Elisha** was bald. **Jonah** ran from God. **Jeremiah** was a whiner. **John** the Baptist ate bugs. **Peter** was a bragger. James and John were ambitious. **Martha** was a worrier. **Mary** was demon possessed, **Zacchaeus** was a vertically challenged crook, **Thomas** was a pessimist. **Paul** was a murderous Pharisee, and **Lazarus** was dead.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the CALLED!"

Romans 12:4–8 (NKJV) *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Tibor Rubin

Rubin was born in Paszto, Hungary, one of six children of a shoemaker. During the German's effort to wipe out Hungary 's Jews in 1943 the 13-year-old child was transported to the infamous Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. His parents and two sisters perished. Rubin was liberated two years later by American troops. He came to the United States in 1948.

In 1950, after learning enough English to pass the Army's entrance examinations Rubin joined the cavalry just in time for the Korean War. A few months later he was Private First Class Rubin fighting on the frontlines of Korea with I Company, 8th Regiment, First Cavalry Division. According to lengthy affidavits submitted by nearly a dozen men in Rubin's company, the Hungarian volunteer found himself under the thumb of one First Sgt. Artice Watson, a soldier who consistently "volunteered" Rubin for the most dangerous patrols and missions, according to official Army reports. Rubin's bravery fighting during the chaotic early month of the conflict earned Rubin two commendations for the Medal by two commanding officers that were later killed in action, but not before ordering Watson to complete the paper work to secure the Medal of Honor for Rubin. In one such mission, according to the testimonies of his comrades, Rubin secured a route of retreat for his company by single-handedly defending a hill for 24 hours against waves of North Korean soldiers. Nothing came of the officer's recommendations. Affidavits filed in support of Rubin that were written years later revealed Watson was allegedly a vicious anti-Semite who instead gave Rubin dangerous assignments in hopes of getting him killed. When the Chinese intervened in October, 1950 Rubin's regiment was wiped out and Rubin, severely wounded, was captured. He spent the next 30 months in a prisoner-of-war camp. Survivors of the prison camp where Rubin was caged credited him with keeping several dozen men alive. In affidavits submitted to the Army after their release they recommended him for the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, the Army's investigation showed. Faced with constant hunger, filth and disease, most of the GIs simply gave up. "No one wanted to help anyone. Everybody was for himself," wrote Sgt. Leo A. Cormier Jr., a fellow prisoner. Rubin was a rare exception, according to the soldiers whose lives he saved. Almost every evening he would sneak out and steal food from the Chinese and North Korean supply depots, knowing that he would be shot if caught, the affiants stated. Despite his heroic actions and the recommendations of dozens of soldiers, Rubin received nothing from the Army but his discharge! For some 30 years after his separation from active duty, Rubin and his wife Yvonne, herself a Dutch Holocaust survivor, lived quietly in Garden Grove, Calif. raising two children until Congress acted, the Army moved, and Rubin was recommended for the Medal of Honor, nation's highest award for bravery. Now when he wears his medal, tradition requires that even five-star

generals salute him and that the president of the United States stand when Rubin enters a room.

Harry Winston, was among the most famous jewelers in the world and a famous diamond broker. He's the man who donated the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian Institution in 1958 after owning it for a decade. One day he was excited. And so was the crowd that had gathered around him. He had just purchased one of the most famous diamonds in the world. And he expected it to be delivered at any moment!

In the crowd were friends and news reporters and curious onlookers, all anxious for the first glimpse of the famous stone. While they waited, Mr. Winston entertained them with stories from the diamond's past history. The crowd buzzed with excitement.

The people kept watching for the armored car and police escort that would make the delivery. Security was sure to be tight.

At the edge of the crowd a man in a postman's uniform tried to make his way through, but he was shoved back. The people wanted nothing to distract attention from the arrival of the fabled gem.

The crowd grew. Self-appointed sentinels kept their eyes on the roadway, ready to shout the arrival of the armed escort. Again the postman tried to push through the crowd. In his hand he clutched a brown paper parcel tied with string. He said he had to deliver it to Mr. Winston. Imagine! Who was he? Some crackpot trying to get his name in the paper?

Finally, with more irritation than courtesy, they let the stubborn postman through. Mr. Winston took the parcel, glanced at the return address, and gave a short cry. With trembling hands he tore the paper away from a small box. Then he opened it and tenderly lifted the precious diamond for all to see. He held it up to the sun and let the gem's reflections play over the amazed crowd.

For a few moments they stood in stunned silence. How could such fabled beauty arrive in such a common wrapping? And then they burst into a loud, spontaneous cheer!

But no one in that crowd ever forgot how they had almost rejected one of the world's most precious diamonds!

How like what happened nearly two thousand years ago when Jesus came to earth. The people were expecting their Messiah. They were waiting for him, longing for His arrival, but they didn't think He would come in a brown paper parcel!—By George Vandeman, *These Times*, May 1979.

One of the great facts about the Christian church, is that throughout its existence, the Lord has chosen to use very ordinary people to do his work. It seems as if the He delights in taking folk that would perhaps escape the attention of everyone else and yet use them in ways that surprises everyone. If any one of us was asked to pick twelve men that could change the world, I doubt that we would have chosen people of the kind that the Lord did when he chose the twelve apostles. They were ordinary working folk who according to the Pharisees were "Ignorant and unlearned men" Nonetheless these uneducated commoners, were not only pivotal in taking the gospel all over the Roman Empire but were also responsible for writing several of the books in the New testament.

Church history is full of examples of men and women like that. People who may well have been disregarded by the wise of this world and yet chosen by God to do great things in His service.

I think of William Carey, the cobbler, who as an apprentice, was invited to church by a fellow apprentice and there gave his life to Christ at the age of seventeen. At the age of thirty two, he set sail for India and that nation was transformed by his ministry and the missions organization that he spearheaded. One man said, "The Christian church owes more to William Carey and his mission than any one person since the Apostle Paul. Yet when he was seventeen everyone who know him would have said "This is just a cobbler". They said of Jesus "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" Oh how little the carnal eye sees.

Who would have thought that a Pharmacist's son from Barnsley in England, would after becoming a Christian at the age of seventeen, go on to form the "China Inland Mission" but that is what Hudson Taylor did. During his fifty one years in China, he was responsible for bringing 800 missionaries to that country, starting 125 schools and seeing 18000 people coming to Christ. Those are just two examples of very ordinary people that the Lord used in amazing ways. Never doubt the potential that you have for being used by God. He can see something in you that no one else can..... not even you. Remember God doesn't always call the qualified but he always qualifies the called.

The Seed*

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, 'It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. 'I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO.'

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have A plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil – He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful – in All shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. 'My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown,' said the CEO. 'Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!'

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with His empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, 'The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!' When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, 'Behold your next Chief Executive Officer!

His name is Jim!' Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. 'How could he be the new CEO?' the others said. Then the CEO said, 'One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all Boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!'

*If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

* If you plant goodness, you will reap friends

* If you plant humility, you will reap greatness

* If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment

* If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective

* If you plant hard work, you will reap success

* If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

* If you plant faith in God , you will reap a harvest

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

It is like the lady waiting for a bus. Every day she waited for a bus and every day she saw this poorly dressed man standing nearby. One day she prepared herself and gave the man a \$10 bill and said, "Never Despair!" The next day she came to catch her bus and the same man was there. He handed her a crisp \$100 bill. "What's this for, asked the lady? The man answered, "Never Despair won the 3rd race at 10-1 odds!"