

Spiritual vs. Religious Discipleship: A Socio-Religious Process of Discipleship concerning Nicodemus (John 3:1-16)”

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Study on Radical Spiritual Discipleship

A Political Reading of

Jesus' Meeting with Nicodemus

John 3:1-16

Just A Minute by Benjamin E. Mays

The Passionate Use of Time

I have only just a minute, only 60 seconds in it,

Forced upon me, can't refuse it.

Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,

But it's up to me to use it.

I must suffer if I lose it,

Give account if I abuse it,

Just a tiny little minute,

But eternity is in it,.

What are you going to do with your minute?

- **Benjamin E. Mays, Former Morehouse President**

Why Civic Engagement?

Civic Engagement, which is not limited to citizen involvement through formal structures such as civil society organizations, connotes freely undertaken activities to address matters of public interest. When provided the freedom to operate and a platform for expression, civic participation can contribute powerfully to national development and ownership. A climate for civic engagement – fostered by legislation and policy measures – is one where citizens have the ability, the agency, and the opportunity to participate in different forms of civic activity” *(UNDP draft Strategic Plan 2008-2011)*

Objectives

- To become “Committees of One”
- To develop a Vision for Our Communities
- To educate ourselves on the Issues and Concerns of our Communities
- To Envision our Churches as Places without Walls
- To Become True Disciples of the Lord by Bearing Much Fruit in our Communities

Rationale

- Biblical Rationale:
 - Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talent
 - Matthew 25:31-46 The Sheep and the Goats
 - Luke 4:18-21 Jesus' Mission Statement
 - Nehemiah 1:3-4 Walls Broken Down
 - Others???

Rationale

- Old Testament Foundation:
 - The Sentinel (or Watchman)
 - Jeremiah 29:11 God has a plan for our Future with Hope
- New Testament Foundation
 - James 1:26-27 Pure and undefiled Religion
 - John 4 (Woman at the Well); John 5 (Man by the Pool); John 9 (Man Born Blind)

Spiritual Rationale

- James 2:14-24 We are Justified by Works
- Matthew 6:33 Seek ye First...
- John 15:1-8 Bearing Much Fruit...So shall you be God's Disciples.
- Others???

A Prophetic Vision

- A Prophetic Vision sees things as God would see it.
- To Envision a Better, more Healthy Community
- To Bring Shalom in the Places where we Live and Serve

A Prophetic Critique

- To Compare the Prophetic Vision with the Way things are in the present
- To Measure the Disparities between God's Vision of the Land with Where we are Now
- To Develop a Passion for the People we Serve and Where They Live and Struggle

Prophetic Action

- To Define the Problem(s)
- To Develop Strong Rationale for Engagement
- To Measure or Survey the Effects of the Problem
- To Develop the Vision for Our Community
- To Network and Mobilize Committees to get People involved to Solve their Problems
- To Decrease the Distant between the Prophetic Vision and the Prophetic Critique

Plan of Action

- Develop a Strategic Plan Process
- Develop a Strategic Plan
- Involve all of the Stakeholders (Network)
- Conduct the Necessary Research
- Educate ourselves around Process and Civic Engagement
- Get and Stay Involved by Joining Key Agencies

Plan of Action (cont.)

- Learn from other Civic Engagement Movements and Service Learning Projects
- Make our Voices Heard via Volunteerism, Activism, and Web and Physical Involvement
- Use Technology and People Power
- If others do nothing, then move forward anyhow!!!
- Case Study: Radical Spiritual Discipleship: Environmental Justice vs. Environmentalism