
THE DISCIPLES STORY: DISCIPLING YOUNG ADULTS

4.14 DISCIPLING PEOPLE IN CRISIS - ANDY WHITMAN

Spiritual "walls" we hit & how to disciple people through them

1) Understanding walls: "I've lost the plot!"

- Jesus: Matthew 7.15-20
- Paul: Galatians 5.1-15
- 21st Century?
- John: 1 John 2.18ff, 4.1-3
- e.g. wall of false teaching

2) Costliness walls: "Too high a price!"

- Cost for you? Luke 9.57-62, Luke 18.29-30
- Cost from others? Matthew 15.2, Matthew 10.17-33 & John 15.18ff
- Believers in Hebrews
- e.g. wall of expenditure
- 21st Century?

3) Everyday walls: "Life is tough all-round!"

- 1 Peter:
 - Family: tricky marriage - 1 Peter 3.1-2 (1 Corinthians 7.12-14)
 - Work: harsh boss - 1 Peter 2.18-21
 - Society: tough government - 1 Peter 2.13-17 (Revelation 13.1-18 c.f. Romans 13.1-10)
- e.g. wall of difficulty
- 21st Century?

4) Community walls: "Christians wind me up!"

- Paul's experience/teaching:
 - conflict initiated: Acts 15.36-41 & Galatians 2.11
 - conflict resolved: Philippians 4.2-3
 - e.g. wall of unforgiveness (Matthew 18.21ff) divisiveness (1 Corinthians 1.10ff & 3.1ff); awkwardness (2 Corinthians 10-13) remoteness (1 Thessalonians 2.17ff & 3.6ff)
- e.g. wall of alienation
- 21st Century?

5) Missional walls: "I just can't get through!"

- Frustrating wall of impotence: Matthew 17.14ff
- Frustrating wall of fruitlessness: Luke 5.1ff
- Frustrating wall of circumstances: Acts 16.6ff
- e.g. wall of frustration
- 21st Century?

6) Maturity walls: "Nappies are the norm!"

- Expectation of growing maturity: Titus 2.1ff, 1 John 2.12-14 > Hebrews 5.12 ("ought to be teachers")
- Danger of stunted maturity: 1 Corinthians 3.1ff & Ephesians 4.14
- newish Christians: check foundations: Acts 19.1ff
- older Christians: check progress: Hebrews 5.11ff
- e.g. wall of immaturity
- 21st Century?

7) Attitudinal walls: "A bridge too far!"

Crunch situations = potential "kairos moments":

- Peter – wall of pride: feet washed? - John 12.6ff.
- Disciples – wall of grief: Jesus departing? - John 14-16.
- Simon the sorcerer – wall of bitterness: Acts 8.18ff.
- Peter – wall of prejudice: gentiles welcomed? - Acts 10.9ff.
- e.g. wall of attitude
- 21st Century?

8) Warfare walls: "Waving the white flag!"

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| • Jesus' experience:
Luke 4.13 | a. knowledge of God:
2Corinthians 10.5 | c. worship of God:
Revelation 2-3 |
| • Our experience:
Ephesians 6.13 | b. forgiveness of God:
2Corinthians 2.5-11 | • e.g. wall of battle
• 21 st Century? |

9) Ethical walls: "Not on the same page!"

- Jewish sensitivities: Romans 14.1-15.7
- Gentile sensitivities: 1 Corinthians 8.1-13 & 10.14-33
- Stumbling block of meat?
- e.g. wall of culture/background
- 21st Century?

10) Stickability walls: "I've started so I'll..."

- Promise of stickability: Philippians 1.6
- Calling to stickability: Matthew 24.13
- importance of community & encouragement!: Hebrews 3.13 & 10.25
- Reality of letting people go?: rich young ruler (Mark 10.21-22); Demas (2 Timothy 4.10)
- e.g. wall of flagging
- 21st Century?

Walls often reveal a wonky theology that needs discerning and correcting e.g. parable of talents (Matt:25.24:"a hard man")