

Message 3

**A Vital Group Bearing Fruit
by Learning to Labor on Clusters of Related People**

I. Seeing and realizing that every person we contact is intrinsically connected to a cluster

It is easy for a young person to bring his classmates to the Lord in groups. This is to bear fruit in a cluster, not only one at a time. We should learn the secret of how to do this. The young people must not miss the opportunity. While a young person is in school, there are many “fish” around him, so he should catch one or two and bring them to the Lord. To go out to the streets to catch people for Christ is difficult, but to do it in school is easy. The young people should do their best to carry this out.

The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1967, vol. 1, p. 551

Acts 10:24, 27

24 And on the next day they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius was awaiting them, having called together his relatives and intimate friends.

27 And as he talked with him, he entered and found many who had come together.

John 1:41-42, 45

41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ).

42 He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, wrote, Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.

A. Formerly seeing only the individual

B. Not viewing the constituents of the cluster as a distraction but as positive potential fruit

Isaiah 65:8 Thus says Jehovah, As the new wine is found in the cluster, And someone says, Do not destroy it, For there is a blessing in it; So will I do for My servants' sake, In order not to destroy them all.

Acts 10:28 And he said to them, You understand that it is unlawful for a man who is a Jew to join himself to or come near one of another race; yet God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

II. Learning how to be interested in a person and his society (cluster)

A. Entering into their personal interests to get to know them and their needs

B. Leading them to pray for their personal concerns (those personal concerns are primarily people)

C. Nurturing a feeling to care for their friends and relatives by prayer

1. Teaching them to make a prayer list of friends and relatives

2. Praying with them over list repeatedly

3. Revisiting and increasing the list

D. Taking steps to contact that person's cluster

E. Helping that person to identify which ones are most responsive

F. Focusing the care on those who are most responsive and entering into that person's care for those ones

III. The vital group breaking into the person's cluster from house to house

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and ³that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

Footnote 16³ After we go forth to produce believers in the Lord, we need to care for them. The best way is to set up meetings in their homes to cover and protect them that they may be cared for by being nourished and

taught, and may become the remaining fruit, living in the branches of the true vine, that is, in the Body of Christ, to be Christ's increase.

Luke 10:6-7

6 And if a ¹son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon it; but if not, it shall return upon you.

7 And in that house remain, eating and drinking the things from them, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Do not move from house to house.

Footnote 6¹ The Lord sent the disciples to preach the gospel by going to every city and place and visiting people in their homes. This may serve to confirm our preaching of the gospel today by knocking on doors and visiting people from door to door. The Lord sent the disciples as lambs entering into the midst of wolves (v. 3). However, among the wolves there were sons of peace, that is, sheep that the Lord was concerned about (Matt. 9:36) and the harvest that He desired to reap (v. 2; Matt. 9:37-38). Because these sheep and the harvest, both of which belonged to the Lord, were scattered and mixed with the wolves, it was necessary for the Lord's disciples to go into the midst of the wolves to seek them out house by house and to reap them. It is the same today. Preaching the gospel by going out to every place to visit people in their homes is ordained by God. It is absolutely different from today's religious way of holding large gatherings to carry out gospel campaigns.

A. Going to that person's house

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God and is well attested to by the whole nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear words from you.

Acts 11:12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. And these six brothers went with me also; and we entered into the man's house.

Acts 10:24 And on the next day they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius was awaiting them, having called together his relatives and intimate friends.

Acts 16:32-34

32 And they spoke the word of God to him together with all those in his house.

33 And he took them with him in that very hour of the night and washed their wounds. And he was baptized immediately, he and all his household.

34 And he brought them up into his house and set a table before them; and he exulted because he had believed in God with all his household.

Luke 5:27-30

27 And after these things He went out and beheld a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, Follow Me.

28 And leaving all, he rose up and followed Him.

29 And Levi gave a great reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at table with them.

30 And the Pharisees and their scribes murmured at His disciples, saying, Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?

B. Spreading into the homes of the cluster

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

Not only do believers, those who are saved, need such a meeting; a seeker of the gospel can also have such a meeting. There is no need to invite him to come to the meeting hall or to a small group meeting. There is no need even to invite him to a saint's home. We can visit him, deliver the gospel to him, and meet with him right there in his own home. Such a practice of delivering the Bible, the truth, the Lord Jesus, and salvation to a person's home is absolutely different from our practice of the past. Those who receive our message in such a way will truly have a different kind of feeling. Formerly, they had to come to us; they were granting us a favor. Now we are going to them; we are granting them a favor. They will surely be grateful to us for this.

The Ministry, vol. 3 no. 7, pp. 8, 10-11

C. A stepping stone back to our houses (small group meetings)

IV. Practical points of visiting: How to go to where that person lives

A. Initially

1. Cherishing (Bringing them some food)
2. Meeting other people in the house
3. Keeping the visiting time short
4. Keeping it smaller in number
5. Being Jesusly human
6. Looking for the opportunity to minister Christ
7. Looking for the opportunity to come again

B. Continuation

1. Learning to have a mutual fellowship (mutual asking and answering of questions)
2. Being flexible to adjust meeting times, days, and venues
3. Having regular prayer in every meeting (to help exercise the spirit)
4. Learning to bring the 3-fold cord into this environment
 - a. Brings the saints into visiting, thereby mobilizing them
 - b. Trains the saints for future migration
5. Camps
6. Blending Trips

V. Concepts or Hindrances against Bearing Clusters of Fruit

- A. People around them are not open
- B. Disheartened by friends or by friends of the opposite gender
- C. Our own limited capacity
- D. Thinking we have to be their entire new society
- E. Thinking we have to divide and conquer (don't let the new ones take each other down)