

How to Make Disciples in the 21st Century | with Allen Parr

(August 29, 2023)

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, how did a kid from Pittsburgh develop one of the best, most practical theological YouTube channels out there with over a million subscribers? You're going to find out today from my friend Allen Parr, the B.E.A.T. with Allen Parr. We're here together right now, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, because we're both teaching at the CrossExamined Instructor Academy. Allen's a brand new instructor with us because he does some great work. You grew up in Pittsburgh. And you grew up in a Christian home. And you went to Dallas Theological Seminary, and then you taught math for 11 years long, and then you start a YouTube channel. Give us how this happened, and how you got to where you are.

ALLEN:

A long journey. Yeah. First of all, thanks for having me. I'm excited to talk to you as always, man. I got saved whenever I was eight years old. Essentially, my parents got divorced when I was six. And my father, it was a really difficult divorce. It was really tough for him. So, he wasn't a Christian at the time, but because of the divorce, he turned to the Lord. And he actually became a Christian and actually ended up being a minister a little bit later on. So, he led me and my sister to the Lord. My sister's two years older than me. So, at eight years of age, he led me to Lord. I remember having a very vivid experience. I remember knowing for sure that, you know, Jesus was my Savior and whatnot.

But between the ages of eight and let's say, 19 or so, I didn't really have a relationship with the Lord. I went to church every week with my mom, grew up in the church. But I wasn't really walking with the Lord in any real tangible way. Never really read my Bible. Never did anything like that. But it wasn't until as I just got done speaking a little bit while ago, a man by the name of Deacon Kevin Miller...I went to school in Cleveland, Ohio to study engineering, electrical engineering. And he was a local deacon at the church. And he came down to our campus to lead a Bible study with me and a few of my Christian friends. And at that point, I hadn't been to church in a whole freshman year of college. I really wasn't interested in church.

But he took a special interest in me, and he really wanted to disciple me and others. And so, he was a little bit older, seemed like he was pretty cool. So, I said, hey, you know, sure thing. We'll give it a shot. And so, really, because he was teaching the Bible in a way that really made sense, for the first time in my life, it sparked an interest in me. It's like, okay, the Bible is cool. The Bible is fun. And I started reading it. And that was 30 years ago. That was in 1993, roughly 30 years, but 1994 or so. And I've not been able to put the Bible down since. That one investment from him, from his life, really impacted me so much that I started reading the Bible.

So, fast forward a little bit. It's now 1998, and I graduate from Case Western Reserve University with my Master of Engineering. And I go to work at Ford Motor Company to be an engineer. And



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I worked there for two years. And without going into all the details while I was there, I got a chance to preach my first sermon. And it was at that moment that I knew that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. So, I left there and went to Dallas Theological Seminary in 2000. And there's a whole bunch of stuff that happened after that.

FRANK:

What degree did you get at Dallas? That's one of the better seminaries around. It's a very robust program. You have to get how many semesters of Greek and Hebrew down?

ALLEN:

Five. I think it was 120 total credit hours for a Master of Theology.

FRANK:

It's like going to a four year college again.

ALLEN:

All over again.

FRANK:

For a master's degree.

ALLEN:

Exactly.

FRANK:

So, what was the degree you got?

ALLEN:

I got a Master of Theology degree with an emphasis in pastoral leadership.

FRANK:

Okay, so you graduated in 2004. And then you're a math teacher for eight years. Did you continue to preach? Why didn't you go right into pastorate or ministry at the time?

ALLEN:

Well, I tried to. I did. So, I graduated from seminary in 2004, landed my first job in 2004, right out of seminary at a small church. And I was on staff there full-time for about two years. And without going into all the crazy details of what happened. Essentially, I was promised to make a certain salary. And after being on staff there for a year and a half, he never increased my salary. I was making like \$30,000 a year, full time. And he didn't want me working anywhere other than the church. Well, I did that for about a year and a half, never got a raise.

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And so, I went to him. I said, hey man. You know, my money's running out. All my savings is gone. Let's get that raise that was in my contract. You said that I was going to be able to make this amount of money, which is why I agreed to come on and work with you at a lower salary. That didn't happen. So, what ended up happening is, I ended up having to supplement my income at the church, by working at a school. And I was doing tutoring part-time at a school, just to try to make ends meet.

Well, he didn't like that, because he felt like, hey, you're full-time here. But I was doing it after hours. And he felt like it was taking me away from the church. To make a long story short, we parted ways. Things didn't work out there. And here I am, two years after seminary with now three degrees, a bachelor's in engineering, a master's in engineering, and a Master of Theology degree from seminary, and I'm unemployed. And I have no prospects of what I'm going to do.

FRANK:

You just didn't have enough faith.

ALLEN:

I didn't have enough faith, man. I should have trusted God. I was trying to trust God, man. But faith didn't seem to make it. I wasn't able to be prosperous like I was promised, you know. So essentially, what happened after that is, the same school that I was tutoring at part-time, they needed a teacher. And at the time, I'm like, well, you know, I've always been good at math. I was an engineering major. So sure, I'll do this for a certain time just to be able to make ends meet. Maybe I'll do it for a school year or whatnot.

And it turns out that I ended up teaching high school math for 11 years, from 2006 to 2017. Never in my wildest dreams...Because remember, I went to seminary to be in ministry full-time.

FRANK:

This doesn't add up man.

ALLEN:

Doesn't add up. During that window, I was also by bivocational. I was leading worship at a church part-time.

FRANK:

So, you're not only a preacher, you're also a singer?

ALLEN:

Yeah, I did a lot of worship, singing, and playing. And churches, that's what they were willing to pay for, you know. They weren't willing to pay you to come and teach a Bible study because you can get any local deacon to do that at the church. You can't get people to sing, and play, and lead the choir. So, they paid me for that. But while I was doing that, I got chances to teach, and preach, and do Bible studies, and kind of hone my gift. But it was always part-time. And I was

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never able to really hone in and do full-time, which is why I'm so thankful for what I'm doing now. Because now 20 years later, which is a lot of gaps and stuff in there. But I'm finally now able to be full-time.

FRANK:

So, how did you get into YouTube? Because that really helped launch your ministry. People knew about you and know about you now from YouTube. How did this happen?

ALLEN:

So, there's two sides of this story. There's the ministry side and there's the personal side, right? So, the ministry side is, 2006 I started teaching high school math bivocational. And in 2000...All that time, I was a single guy, which was another whole journey. That was frustrating because I'm single, and I'm a minister. And so, I'm living a celibate life. That's no fun. And so, all my friends were married. They were having kids. And due to just a lot of things going on in my brain, parent's divorce and not really growing up seeing like a solid family, and a solid marriage. I just had these fears in my mind about committing and things of that nature.

So, I never was able to really settle in on you know, the right girl. I kind of went from relationship to relationship, searching for love, trying to find the right connection. And I did that up until 2014. And it was, it was February 14, Valentine's Day 2014, where I met my wife at a church that we were attending. Actually, she was attending the church. I had just left the church I was on staff at for six years. I left that church. And I started looking at YouTube. I started looking at what might my next move be in ministry because it was a small church, about 250 people. And I felt like I'd been there for six years, and taught all kinds of Bible studies, and preached and everything.

But I just felt in my heart that God had something bigger for me. God had something different for me. I knew that I had a gift. I knew I had the education from Dallas Seminary. And I felt like more of the world needed to hear what I had to say. But I didn't know what that looked like. So, I started researching YouTube and I started seeing, wow. These people are having a serious impact with a lot of reach, reaching 1000's of people with one video. And I said what if I could create a Christian YouTube channel that answers people's questions and teaches the Bible in a fun, relevant way, that doesn't bore people, that's quick and short and concise, but interesting, and entertaining, and easy to listen to.

And so, I didn't know anything about YouTube. I didn't know anything about video editing, graphic design, thumbnails, SEO, titles, you name it. I didn't know anything. Audio, video, video editing, nothing. So, I learned it. I learned it all by watching YouTube. And so, there's two major changes happening in my life at the same time. I met this girl that I started feeling things for that I never felt in any of the other relationships I had ever been in. I'd been in a lot of relationships, but something was different about her. So, I fell madly in love with her. And so, that kind of coincided with my journey to YouTube.

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So, I got married in 2015, November 15th on my 40th birthday.

FRANK:

You were 40.

ALLEN:

I was 40, and I got married on my 40th birthday. So, my wedding anniversary is the same day as my birthday. And so, I got married on November 15, 2015. And essentially, I started my YouTube channel, August 17th of 2015. So, it's just like, man. My life was just kind of, I don't know. I was just kind of struggling along.

FRANK:

Plotting along.

ALLEN:

Plotting along, trying to figure out ministry.

FRANK:

But you had the education.

ALLEN:

Had the education, had the experience, had the gifting. But didn't have the life partner and didn't have the platform. And all that started to come together in 2015. Now, mind you, in 2015, I was still teaching high school math. Because clearly, you don't just start YouTube and start going full-time. It doesn't work like that.

FRANK:

And so now, here we are fast forwarding eight years later, over a million subscribers. And the beauty of YouTube as much social media. I mean, there's a lot of good and a lot of bad about social media. But one of the great things is, you can speak to several million people. And you would never be able to do that personally. You get a video that goes to a million to two million people. You could spend the rest of your life speaking to churches, you'll never get there.

ALLEN:

You'll never even get that if you add them all up together.

FRANK:

That's right? So, how do you choose your topics? And what process do you go through to actually make a video?

ALLEN:

Man, there's so many different things I look at as it relates to topics. As we're going to talk about tonight, really, it's where passion, proficiency, and performance all align. So, if you can imagine

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like a Venn diagram where you have three circles. So, I look at first of all, what has God put on my heart? Where is the Holy Spirit leading me? What am I going through personally? What am I passionate about? What subjects am I interested in? What have I been studying in the Bible lately? What's God been pressing in my heart? Okay, good.

And then what am I proficient at? What are the areas where I know I can speak on? Whether it's end time events, bible prophecy, or answering people's questions. What is it that I know I'm wired to speak on? How has God wired me? But then, what are the videos that have performed well on YouTube? Whether it's my channel or other people's channels, what are the things that people have been responding to online? Put those three things together.

And then I start looking at, okay. How can I now be creative in communicating these things? So, whether that's through podcasts. Whether that's through interviews with people like yourself, or whether that's through long form content, or frequently asked questions. I just think about the different ways that I can communicate these things. So, sometimes I choose my topics from just random thoughts I have. Sometimes it's questions that people asked me in Instagram, or Facebook, or leaving a comment on my YouTube channel.

FRANK:

People will email you and say, Allen, can you do a video on x? Sometimes that happens?

ALLEN:

Yeah, it happens a lot.

FRANK:

Now, it takes a ton of work to do this. People don't realize. And you were doing two a week at one point. And one of the things I respect about you, as you said, I just can't continue at this pace because it's taking too much time away from my family. And so, you went to one a week. And you admitted, hey, you thought, am I going to lose subscribers? Am I going to lose views? Am I going to lose the influence that I have? And you said, well, my family is more important than that anyway. So, how has that been, now that you're back to just one a week?

ALLEN:

Yeah. So, what's so interesting about this YouTube journey is when I started out on YouTube in 2015, I'd say for the first two years or so, I did one video a week. Because remember, I was still teaching high school math. So, that's all I could do. And I was trying to be a husband. I was newly married. And I was doing everything on my own. I had no team. So, I'm doing everything. I didn't have a Jorge. I didn't have anybody to help. So, you know, I was doing all those things. I was doing one video a week, and they were all quick videos, five minutes or less. I mean, I prided myself on being the guy that's going to pack a ton of content in five minutes or so.

But then as people started reaching out and saying, hey, man. We'd like to hear you a little bit more on that. You know, hey, expand on that. Because I just assumed, well, you know, shorter

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videos are better. But people were like, hey, we want more. So, then that freed me up to create longer videos. Which, going somewhere with that, because now those five minute videos turned into 10, 12, 15 minute videos. And those took a lot longer to shoot, a lot longer to write, a lot longer to edit.

FRANK:

Do you script it all?

ALLEN:

I do.

FRANK:

Okay, so you're going to be precise because you're a theologian. You want to make sure that you're giving people the truth, and you're not just going off the cuff.

ALLEN:

Yeah. I don't read from the script. But I script it out to make sure I'm thinking through how I want to say and what I want to say.

FRANK:

Yeah, for me, even doing a presentation. Content, of course, is important. But sometimes the order...How do you package something so it makes logical sense to the viewer, so they can track along with you? And how do you segue from one point to another? In fact, so much of it, in addition to order for me anyway, is not what I put in. What do I leave out? I can't spend too much time on that. It'll get bogged down. I've got to stay focused. I could say a lot more, but it's going to bog down the video or bog down the presentation. So, you're experiencing the same thing I am.

ALLEN:

Yeah, same thing. I mean, when I started, you know. It's so funny sometimes when people ask me, you know, they'll email me and say, hey. I don't know if you do this or not. But do you speak at churches. I'm thinking, well, yeah. What do you think I was doing before I started on YouTube, you know? I mean, that's all I did was speak at churches before. But I guess because people see me as a YouTuber, they don't know if I speak now. But the thing is, is that, you know, I was coming from an environment where my sermons were 40-45 minutes. And now I'm trying to condense it all into five, six minutes. And it really makes you very efficient to think about, okay. How can I communicate the same thing in a five minute message?

FRANK:

So, Allen, if you get one chance with an audience. Say a church asks you in and says, Allen, we want you to talk about whatever topic is on your heart. What's the one topic that you think is burning on your heart that you want people to know?

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ALLEN:

Yeah, I'll probably say two of them right now. It probably changes from year to year. And I'd say right now, the two that are most pressing, for me, would be spiritual maturity. The importance of spiritual maturity, that's the first one. Because I think that one of the biggest problems that we have in the church today, when I say the church, in the body of Christ, I'll just say, is spiritually immature Christians, and biblically illiterate Christians. Christians that if I can be honest, are lazy. They're lazy in their study of the Word of God. They're lazy in their understanding of their own faith, apologetics. We know that. You ask them simple questions, you know. Is Jesus the only way to get to God? Well, I think so.

FRANK:

They couldn't defend it, though.

ALLEN:

Couldn't defend it. It's waffling. Even Barna statistics seem to prove that out. You know, people don't know what they believe. So, this lukewarm Christianity...I just believe we're in an age, especially now. With all the deconstruction, with all of the competing arguments, and competing messages that are going on. We need more Christians to stand up and be spiritually mature. So, that'd be the first one. The second one is discipleship. And I talked about that a little bit earlier.

FRANK:

They're kind of related actually, spiritual maturity and discipleship.

ALLEN:

Yeah. If you have someone in your life, who's pouring into you, they can help you become more spiritually mature. And for me, I am the man I am today, because a few men over the past 25 years, 30 years or so, have poured into me and helped me make good decisions in my life, helped me understand what ministry looks like, what it looks like to be a husband, a father. And so, all those things didn't just happen, because, you know, I woke up and I tried harder. I had men that poured into me.

FRANK:

And Jesus told us to make disciples. He didn't say make believers, ladies and gentlemen. He told us to make disciples. And I think it is the most difficult thing that a pastor has to lead, and that is the discipleship of his flock, for a number of reasons. It's really hard to get people together and to disciple them. It's difficult to live life with so many people if you go to a big church, you really can't. You've got to be in a small group to make this happen. What are some ways that you think people can be discipled or can disciple others? How does this happen? How do we get people to spiritual maturity in this day and age?

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ALLEN:

Yeah. Well, I want to answer that. But I also want to answer the other question that you asked a while back about how's it working for me with regards to taking a step back if you want. I completely forgot to answer that. I got turned around there. But yeah, it's been amazing, Frank. God has really been faithful. Because since we've gone to one video a week, I've seen the most explosive growth on the YouTube channel that we've seen in years. Videos that are outperforming our normal videos in terms of views, and engagement, and things of that nature. And I just see that as God's confirmation. But more than the channel, just my own mental health. I mean, going from eight videos a month to four is huge. You know, writing scripts...

I mean, what I do is a lot different than what you do in terms of, I know you go speak. And you take your clips, and you've got a team that puts them together. For me, I'm writing new scripts. So, putting eight of those together in one month. It was just a lot of work, and it was taxing. So, now what life looks like for me is more time with my family, more time by myself. Less stress, better mental health, more time playing golf, more time playing racquetball, more time playing chess. More time to focus on other aspects of my own ministry that I've neglected. So, that's what life looks like with that.

He doesn't say go teach them the hypostatic union, or, you know, substitutionary atonement, or the Trinity, or some sort of deep eschatology, soteriology, ecclesiology. Teach them what I've commanded you. Teach them how to be a good husband. Teach them how to be a good wife. Teach them how to be a good father, how to resist temptation, how to resist sin, how to confess your sin. I mean, these are basic principles, that any Christian who's been walking with the Lord for a while should have, you know, pretty solid. And Jesus is saying, hey, take what you've learned.

Take your failures, take your flaws, take your experiences, take your wisdom. Things that God has set you free from that you used to struggle with, go and pour that into someone else. So, I think it can look like one on one discipleship. I also think it can look like small group discipleship. I think we see Jesus doing that in the Gospels, where he had 12, and then he had three, you know.

But as far as your question about discipleship. Man, I think people make it sound like it's got to be a whole lot more difficult than it is. And I think a lot of times, we shy away from it, because we see discipleship as oh, man. I've got to have, a Master of Theology from Dallas Seminary. I've got to be able to teach the Bible. I've got to know the answer to all the questions that anyone's ever going to ask me. So, because I'm not there, then I'm not the right guy, and I'm not going to do anything. And I love what Jesus said in the Great Commission. He says, go ye therefore in all the world, making disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe what I have commanded you.

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FRANK:

So, how do you do that practically in your own life? What's a routine that you have? Give some insight on that.

ALLEN:

In certain seasons of my life, it's looked formal. It's been formally done. In other seasons, it's been informal. So, I'll explain that. I've had people that I've disciplined in the past where we're entering into a formal discipleship relationship where we will meet regularly, let's say every week, whether it's Zoom or Starbucks. And this isn't something you've got to sign your life away for two years. That's when people get intimidated. It can be three months.

And I think it's a good thing to set that in the beginning and say, hey. How would you feel if over the next three or four months, well, let's be specific. Over the next four months, we get together on Fridays for coffee, or every other Friday, if it's too much for you, coffee at this coffee shop 9am to 10am, one hour. Or if that's too much, hey. I've got drive time. Instead of me listening to a podcast or something, I'll give you my drive time on my way to work once a week and you can just ask me questions about whatever you want.

It can look like many different ways. The biggest thing is making yourself available. So, for me, sometimes that's been formal. Other times, like right now, I have a couple guys that I'm just informally checking up with them on a regular basis. They know they can call me at any time. They do call me certain times. We meet, we talk, we Zoom, we pray. And I'm just a source of wisdom and encouragement for them. Sometimes it looks like teaching them a principle. Sometimes it looks like me just listening and giving them advice.

FRANK:

And people did that for you?

ALLEN:

People did that for me in different ways, formally and informally.

FRANK:

All right, so sometimes you're just answering their questions. Sometimes it's just, hey. What's going on in your life? Sometimes you may be going through a book with them?

ALLEN:

Yeah, or an article or a video. I find out what pain points they're dealing with through a couple of conversations. You know, one guy that I'm dealing with now, he's in the same situation as I was. He's single. He's a good guy, good-looking guy. He's a great guy. He wants to be married. He's trying to be celibate. And I'm like, hey, I'm the guy for you. Because I can tell you all about that journey and how frustrating it was, but how important it is to honor God in this season, right? And I've got another guy who's the same exact age, but he's a young married guy. And so, he's

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newly married. And so, he and I have been talking a lot. And I've been giving him advice about marriage and things like that.

FRANK:

What do you say to somebody out there who is a new Christian? They are not in a discipleship relationship at all right now. How can they get involved in a discipleship relationship?

ALLEN:

Well, that's the thing that's kind of sad, Frank. You would hope that churches would have a focus, an intentional focus on discipleship. But sadly, you know, there's a lot of churches that don't seem to have a clear discipleship plan nor focus. But what I would say is, if I was a young Christian, and I'm at a church, I would go to the church, and I would ask my pastor and say, hey. What program or what group can I get into? Because I really want to grow spiritually. I don't want to be left out here on my own. Or is there a group of men or women who can mentor me? Is there someone that you recommend? Or is there some course or some sort of track that I can get involved in, that would help me grow my faith?

And in my opinion, if you're at a church, and they say no to both of those, you may be at the wrong church. Or you might want to challenge that church and say, well, you know, that's kind of sad. I mean, I got baptized, I got saved. And now I'm here and I want to start growing. There's nothing here for me to grow? And so, that's unfortunate, but that can happen.

FRANK:

This may be a hard question to answer because it might take some searching the archives of your mind. But as you look back on your life, you've been discipled by certain men. Has there been enduring lessons that you've learned from them that helped you make decisions that you wouldn't have made otherwise? That have helped get you to be more of a follower of Christ? Can you think of anything specific that this happened? I was in this relationship, and I'm so glad I was because I never would be where I am now with Jesus, unless that person was in my life.

ALLEN:

Yeah, I can think of two very specific ones. One of them was back in 2002. I was engaged to a woman who's obviously not my wife now. But I was engaged. I mean, got the ring for her, got the dress. We put money down on the reception hall, a honeymoon package, and all that stuff. Whole deal. I was like five months away from making the biggest mistake of my life. And I had a man who was discipling me at the time. And we went out to lunch. And he gave me the courage to think long-term versus short-term.

FRANK:

What did he see that you didn't see?

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ALLEN:

Well, I'll tell you exactly. What's interesting is that he and I were meeting for lunch. And he had brought about three or four books that he was going to give me that was going to help me become a better husband. How to communicate with your wife, how to resolve conflict. Because in his mind, the meeting was supposed to be, I'm helping Allen prepare for marriage, because he's getting ready to get married. But what he noticed in me through conversation and some questions was a lot of doubt. He noticed that I was unsure, and my answers didn't sound like the type of answers you would expect from a man who's getting ready to spend the rest of his life with a woman that he says he loves.

And I had a lot of doubt, a lot of nervousness, a lot of fear, a lot of anxiety, a lot of uncertainty about not just the institution of marriage. Because I think that can be natural for some people. But the person I was marrying. He heard that, you know, we didn't get along very well. We didn't have a friendship. We didn't have a lot of things in common. We weren't spiritually compatible. Here I am a seminary student, and she wasn't really interested in ministry. And so, you know, things just weren't right.

FRANK:

So, he called you out on that.

ALLEN:

He called me out on that, and he really said, hey, man. I don't like what I'm hearing. As a matter of fact, what was interesting was that he was married before. And he had made the mistake of ignoring all of the red flags and ignoring his own voice saying this is the wrong relationship. And he ended up getting married and ended up getting a divorce. But then he was happily married at that point for 10-15 years, and he's still married to the same woman now. And that's what I mean about, sometimes God can use our failures and our flaws from our past to help someone else. Because he was hearing in me some of the same things he ignored in his first marriage.

FRANK:

Well, that's 2 Corinthians 1. We can comfort others because we've been through difficulty. And if they're going through difficulty, we know. We've been there. So, friends, if you don't have somebody that can speak truth into your life, a mature Christian, then you need to find somebody who can, and give them the permission to do so. What's the second?

ALLEN:

Yeah, the second one was about four years ago. I had a man who was discipling me. And this was a formal discipleship relationship. And I think the biggest lesson I got there was, interestingly enough, that I needed to be intentional about making disciples. Because before that, for me, ministry meant a YouTube video that got 200,000 views, or speaking at a church, or doing a conference like this one. To me, that was ministry. I didn't equate ministry with disciple making. And he really helped me understand that, hey, Jesus spent way more time with His disciples.

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I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

As a matter of fact, I just talked about this. Seventeen times in the Gospels, we see Jesus speaking to large crowds. Forty-six times we see Jesus spending time with his disciples in small group format. But yet many of us, we see ministry as the big stage. All the fanfare, getting all the views, and things like that. But it's radically different from how Jesus saw discipleship, which is spending intentional time with people. So, it was a total paradigm shift from what I had seen as ministry for at that point, 20 years. Because this was in 2019. I never really was intentional about making disciples. But after his deposit into me, from that point forward, I've been very intentional about making sure that I make disciples.

FRANK:

So, what did you do to become more intentional?

ALLEN:

I just started seeking out people that I felt they could benefit from my wisdom. Instead of waiting for them to ask me, I would just say, hey. Could you use someone right now in your life, someone that, you know, might be a little bit further down the line than you, that you know, could give you some advice, give you some wisdom? And to this day, I've never had one person, you know, say nah. I'm good man. Most of the time, people are in a place where they're like, man, yeah. I could really use that.

FRANK:

So how many guys are you discipling?

ALLEN:

Right now, I've got about two guys. And that's another thing I would advise. Don't try to save the world. Nobody has time for that. You don't want to overwhelm yourself. But just imagine, Frank, if everybody in the body of Christ chose one person, just one person, to disciple per year? Per year. And I just talked about this out there. Who is going to be standing on a stage 30 years from now, saying that they are who they are because of your investment in them? Just like me, I was standing on stage just a few minutes ago here at the CIA Academy because Deacon Kevin Miller made an investment in my life in 1994. He remembers me, I'm sure. But he doesn't know that I'm giving him credit now almost 30 years later. But that's the power of discipleship.

FRANK:

Yeah, that's beautiful. And it needs to be done. Discipleship is the missing element of church. And as Paul says, in Ephesians 4, that the essential purpose of church is to equip the saints to do ministry. And therefore, have them become disciples in order to do so. That's Jesus's Great Commission. So, if we're not actually fulfilling the Great Commission, we're not doing church ladies and gentlemen. Again, the Great Commission is not making believers. It's making disciples. Now what's coming up for you, Allen, with the channel? Any new direction you're going in? Any new topics you want to broach? What are you thinking about right now?

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ALLEN:

In mid-August, we're going to be in the middle of a series on biblical sexuality. I'm going to be answering four questions about that. What does the Bible say about sex? What are some common myths or misconceptions that Christians have about sex? How to deal with shame from your sexual past? Whatever that's from right. And then, how do you talk to your kids about sex? When do you talk to kids about sex? And I'm actually going to be partnering with Covenant Eyes, and we're going to do a four-part series on that.

FRANK:

Covenant Eyes, the internet filter people?

ALLEN:

Yeah, they're kind of, I guess sponsoring videos. So, I'll be kind of working with them. But yeah, so that's next. But bigger than that, we really want to continue creating our online courses and helping equip people. Tell people about the online courses. Yeah, we've got a course called the Bible Accelerator, which is our flagship course, that's basically a biblical literacy course. It teaches you the inductive Bible study method that I learned in seminary, but really packaged in a very easy to understand format. It'll take you about six hours to get through. But it is packed with, you know, just super, super easy principles for how to study the Bible, like a theologian.

FRANK:

Where do they go to get that course?

ALLEN:

Yeah, so they can go to LetsEquip.com/BibleAccelerator. That's the name of the course. It's supposed to accelerate your knowledge of the Bible and how to study it.

FRANK:

All right, that's excellent. So, check that out. And the YouTube channel is?

ALLEN:

The B.E.A.T. by Allen Parr. And also, what's next is I've got to write another book too.

FRANK:

A few months ago, we did a podcast or radio program on your first book. Tell people about that briefly. And you've got another book coming?

ALLEN:

Yeah. Well, I've got to do another book with the contract that I'm on. But the first book is about false teachings. But yeah, seven false teachings that are leading many Christians astray. It's called *Misled*. People can purchase that now on Amazon or any place where books are sold. And so, that's going well. It's exciting to see that go. And that launched in June 13, 2023. I don't know exactly what my next book is going to be about. But I'm starting to get my mind turning

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around on that. And so, I'll probably start the writing process there in probably a couple months from now.

FRANK:

Well, check out *Misled* if you haven't already, ladies and gentlemen. You can get it at Amazon, wherever you get books. You can also go back in the archives of this podcast. Probably sometime around May we had a conversation about *Misled*. Great insights into seven lies out there that are being told to Christians or even non-Christians that you want to avoid; you want to know the truth about them. So, check that book by Allen Parr. Also check out his YouTube channel and go to LetsEquip.com/BibleAccelerator. All great stuff. And if you want Allen to speak, how do they do that?

ALLEN:

They can go to my personal website, AllenParr.com/speaking. There's a form there, and they can fill that out. And I'd be happy to entertain the possibility of speaking in church or a conference.

FRANK:

Allen, it's been great brother right.

ALLEN:

Thanks, as always. Always great to connect with you.

FRANK:

All right, friends. Check him out. And Lord willing, we will see you here next week. God bless.

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