

Abstract

Studies in recent years have pointed to the relative neglect of discipleship within local church congregations. This dissertation seeks to explore what can be done to engage with this issue at a time when the Anglican Communion itself is placing a greater emphasis on intentional discipleship. The research will focus primarily on the ministry of Jesus among his disciples and seek to understand how he invested himself in their formation. Focusing on Matthew's Gospel as the one where discipleship is given the most prominence, I will engage with three significant passages which offer vital lessons from Jesus's own ministry. These passages feature the call of the disciples in Matthew 4:18, the teaching on the Lord's prayer found in Matt 6:5-15 (from the Sermon on the Mount), and finally, the commissioning of the disciples in Matthew 28:16-20. Study of these passages provides several applications which the church can utilize in its endeavour to make disciples. These include an understanding of biblical apprenticeship as modeled by Jesus, an investment in the practice of the spiritual disciplines and the role of mission as an effective means of spiritual formation.