

Synopsis of Spiritual Formation Class by Jon Dybdahl (7/9/2006)

History of why class was suppose to be introduction to D.Min study.

What changes should the D.Min accomplish?

We want to ask what should take place in the life of the person and what kind of people should the student of D.Min be?

Rather than a diverse class model, we want a formation program.

What kind of person do we want to see come out of this program?

In other words, How are we going to form people?

So, the professors talked about building the class.

From formation to methodology to strategy.

This class became the basic class for all of the D.Min. classes.

Who we are is the basis for what we do!

Who is the person?

What is their spirituality really like?

What do they truly believe and practice?

Jon has the theory that there is this abstract mental theology in the church, but in “real theology” we don’t practice and say.

In other words is this your real theology or correct theology?

Being vs. Competency

Formation vs. Facts

Real vs. Abstract Reasoning

Fire is more important than the funnel

You can forgive the mistakes that people make, but it’s hard to give a person the passion and zeal that needs to be done.

Ministry starts with a passion and a zeal, but you can’t depend upon just what is said.

So much easier to give the theory, but what about the person?

What we need is reflection, self-analysis, and self-involvement.

Learning needs to be existential, must mean something to me

Insight into self leads to vision which leads to change.

Self-knowledge and God knowledge goes together.

Ministry has to be existential because it's about life.

If you're going to do this spiritual formation, you must ask about where you are going?

That's why ministry is the most challenging thing there is.

Jenny: What does that say about our prayer life and experience?

Jon: Early SDA's assumed the experience, but assuming it, it did not get taught.

That's why evangelism has not included spiritual formation, but just the doctrinal.

Ellen White has mentioned these early experiences of early SDA's.

Jon: in the early 60's spiritual formation was not included, but now making a change.

Jon: I don't care what you call the program, it's still related to who you are.

What happens in this class, it's like the time Jon conducted a mission institute in Monument Valley with the Navajos.

The native American young people had to go on a vision class—you were not an adult until you did that.

Jesus did that by going into the wilderness: fasting, prayer, discovery of His mission and vision, etc.

Jesuits go on a 30-day retreat, but most of the people were not Catholic in the quest/retreat.

There's a text Jon has used many times as a basic text for model for discipleship.

Mark 3:13 The disciples weren't initially suppose to do anything, but just be with Jesus.

Mark 3:14 ⁴ Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

Too often the analysis that we do of ourselves is too hasty, partial, and simplistic.

Jon is calling for a time of in-depth reflection...

If radically-changed pastors, there wouldn't be need for new methods.

Having God in action in our lives, then testifying would happen spontaneously.

Reading

Worship

Sharing

Synthesis

Personal application

Purpose of this class is spiritual formation so we will be changed people.

Jon has been praying that this will happen.