



Lay Pastors Ministry with Melvin University

Lecturing from the President Byeong

Lecture 5

(based on the experiences)



Too long training course



Dear students,

Today's Christians are totally different from yesterday. It is not their fault. The whole of society, even the church itself, changed a lot. Ordinary Christians are not any more ordinary. They want to be a person as they are, which means they want to grow up enough. Let us think of it seriously. Today's congregations do not stay at one church all of their life. They are looking for a church where they may grow. Some churches train them for three years (for instance, discipleship-making), but when they complete a three years course they leave the church where they are trained even though the church was their mother church. They were there for about 20–30 years as a committed person. But they left today without any hesitation. Why? Because they want to grow, they want to use their talents, the gifts given them by God.

So other churches are growing because those people who left their previous church came and joined their church. So, almost every week many matured people who are trained very well and almost ready to do any ministry enroll to the other churches. That is today's church, especially in Korea. We pastors have to know the reality. We intend to stay in the fantasy world too long. They miss many people to the other churches, even their church to close down soon.

And another problem is too long training courses today. Today's Christians are not immature people anymore. They are grown up enough. They just want to do something, but the church, exactly the pastor, keeps them in an airplane shed too long. Laypeople are ready to fly out, but they still keep them inside. Two problems happen: Their energy is out of service because their wings died in there, so they could not fly ... I mean, no energy to go out. In the moment of completion of the training course, no energy left. It was their enormous energy mounted up, but too late to open the door.

This is the fatal mistake of today's pastor. I found some reasons why they made the same mistake, even though they knew there were some problems. First, their curriculum, and second they don't know about what the motivation is enough. First, most churches have a curriculum for a three years-training course. Usually the curriculum is made by a denominational headquarters, or a prominent big church developed and introduced. So local church pastors believe the big pastor's or follow denominational policy is the truth. So even the church knows it is not the best resource, they still use that without other options.

And, what I want to say here is that they put them into airplane sheds too long until they are almost dead. Today's people have changed a lot. In the early years they didn't know much about Bible and Ministry, so they needed a three years-study program, but now they are matured enough to do ministry. So they need only a paradigm shift to jump into the ministry and on the other hand, today's period of training is getting shorter. From three years to two years, then one year, then six months and then, even three months today. Only a three months training course is good enough. So three years in the plane shed is really not wise. Even as you know, PACE training takes only 12 hours, and in my case I am training them only straight two days or two nights. Why? Because they are almost ready to fly. The Only thing is to open the door, and push them to fly in the air, which takes only two days.

Of course, there is another reason to do three years. This is not a proper reason, but it still works. The church wants to keep them in their church, instead of letting them go to other churches. So, they say three-years is correct, also say Jesus trained for three years, but this is not a wise strategy. Laypeople are not anymore laity in the past ten years, or twenty years ago. They live today, right now and here. We pastors have to think of the real issue and reality.