

Discipleship: conclusion

- **Discipleship** is not merely going to church or bible study, **discipleship** is not going to be convenient or comfortable, **discipleship** will not be a life whose primary goal is self gratification, Discipleship is all about surrender, and making oneself available for whatever God has in store for you. For the goal of discipleship is to not merely benefit you but for all those you come into contact with, so that in the end they won't really see you, they'll see the Christ living inside you > **Acts 4:13**. Has this verse not been at some point in our walk, all of our desire? What happened? What occurred that caused us to believe that this was no longer a goal not worth striving for. We all have our reasons, but this **message** is not about the **past**, but the **present**.
- What does God expect from **you** and from **me** > **a commitment that stems from love** > **Lk 7:38-47**- were her sins forgiven because of what she did? No its because her sins are forgiven which prompted her to give all that she had to Jesus > **4 points**
 1. Oil- **costly**, probably the most expensive thing that she owned
 2. Tears- **emotional**, does not care who knows about how much she cares for Jesus
 3. Hair- **her beauty**, without Jesus there's nothing about her desirable she declares.
 4. Kisses- **repeatedly**, shows her devotion and love
- When we **1st** got saved I would say for the most part this was us, nothing to good for my Jesus, emotional and don't care who knows, without Jesus not even the best of me is worth anything, my kisses, my actions didn't stop with how I felt or what I thought it was continuous and nonstop, again I ask what happened, I'm not going to dwell in the past this is about the present. **1Jn 4:10,19**- Christ loved us well before we ever loved Him, and from that love should come a supernatural, self sacrificing commitment to God and others. Sinners can bless the Savior wow! Once that has occurred then the exciting part begins, where God takes over and you follow, and the main point of Christianity reveals itself as we **trust God** no matter what the circumstance > **Dan 3:15-19**- even when faced with **death**, and your own **demise**, if it's God's will your not looking for someone to save you, your only interested in what's best according to the Lord.
- **Dan 3:19-29**- we know God saw fit to deliver them but only for His glory and a testimony to the king, but if God saw fit to let them die it would have been no less glorious to the **3 Hebrew boys**, that's trust folks. When it's **uncomfortable, inconvenient**, and possibly **physically** or **emotionally** harmful to you trust not in self preservation, but that Father knows best. So we have **commitment** which comes from **trusting**, which should produce **focus**, our final example, these **3** things will help us keep the proper perspective when it comes to discipleship.

- Spurgeon said if what you believe doesn't motivate you to action then your belief is in vain, no one modeled that statement better than the Apostle Paul > **Acts 20:17-24**- He tells the Ephesians elders that the future was not going to be pretty for him or them, yet despite knowing what the future holds he continues on, that's **focus**, that's **commitment**, that's **trust** folks. When even if the result is not what you'd want, because it's God's will you press on > He knows people will not appreciate the sacrifice he's making, and yet he makes it anyway, and that's because his **focus** is not on the immediate result, his focus is on what God has called him to do > **2 Cor 12:15**- true discipleship is passing on a legacy of self denial and self sacrifice.
- Paul sees himself as a parent looking out for the best interest of their children, notice it's not about what the children want that determines what he does, but what's best for the children down the road. Because right now they don't appreciate what Paul is doing, just like children don't understand the gravity of the choices their making, that job is reserved for their parents. As a pastor I find myself in this position more often than I like to admit, where decisions are being discussed I get included, but my thoughts often are not really appreciated if I don't agree with the direction the person wants to go in, what do I do, should I look out for their best interest and tell them exactly what I know God is saying to me, or do I look out for my own and tell them exactly what I know they want to hear and say may the Lord bless you and yours?
- **2 Sam 7:2-5, 13**- God vetoed what Nathan had said previously, he didn't know how David would respond, I'm sure he knew he would be disappointed, but he also could get mad, blame Nathan for agreeing with him, and continue with his plans, but instead we read David accepted this correction from Nathan, which led to God using Nathan later on to help David through the most difficult of times after his sin with Bathsheba. But this situation was a test for both Nathan and David, **1st** would Nathan give news knowing it would be deemed as bad to the King, and would the King accept news that deviated from his original plans knowing that it came from God.