

## **Count the Cost: The Cost of Making Disciples      August 2, 2020**

### **2 Timothy 2:1-7 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**1** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, **2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Who is Timothy? What do you know about him from scripture?

Why is it important that Timothy “be strengthened by” rather than rely on his own strength? What happens when we rely on our strength versus the strength that comes from God?

Do you know your own spiritual genealogy? Who has invested in you whether through one-on-one discipleship or through being a pastor or group leader?

Paul uses three images in this passage to communicate the hard work that we and Timothy are to undertake. Reflect on these images for a bit. How is being a soldier like being a Christian? What about being an athlete or being a farmer? What does each of these images teach us?

In the sermon, Sam connected each of these images to a cost involved in making disciples: the cost of focus, the cost of time, and the cost of patience. Which of these three is the biggest obstacle for you regarding disciple-making?

Are there any other costs involved in making disciples?

Sam also shared three elements to effective disciple-making: proximity, intentionality, and consistency. How would you explain these three in your own words?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**