

“A Discipleship Journey” (1-9-22)

1) Vision for the Series

a) Transformational Discipleship

Matthew 4:17-22 (ESV)

(17) From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (18) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, “**Follow** me, and **I will make you fishers of men.**” (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Note: Jesus’ goal is to change the world - by changing us into people who change the world!

He called his disciples into a relational community with Him & others, with a clear stated goal:

A Disciple: Follow - Change - Mission

b) Revelation not Information

The disciples have been **following** Jesus for awhile now, and he has a conversation with them - who do people think I am? (Various answers given). Then comes the question that really matters . . .

Matthew 16:15-17 (ESV)

(15) Jesus said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” (16) Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (17) And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not **revealed** this to you, but **my Father who is in heaven.**”

Note: They had been with Jesus - and Peter’s eyes were opened to the truth about who Jesus is! And that revelation **changed** him . . .

Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

And I tell you, you are **Peter**, and on this **rock** I will **build my church**, and the **gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

Note: Simon’s name changed to Peter - to signify the change in him, and even more to signify what his identity is rooted in - Peter is the “rock” established upon “The Rock.”

c) The Engine of Change - our Obedience

Matthew 16:19 (ESV)

I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Note: We all want to see dramatic change in the world, but change is costly and it starts with me! There are things in our lives that need to stop. There are things in our life that need to be released.

Matthew 4:17 - “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:19 - “**Follow** me, and **I will make you fishers of men.**”

This process won't be easy, look how quickly Peter was confronted by the process of change . . .

Matthew 16:21-23 (ESV)

(21) From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. (22) And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." (23) But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Note: Peter's blunder - "**get behind me satan**"

Matthew 16:24 (ESV)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and **take up his cross** and **follow me**."

Note: Change is costly, but the reward is priceless . . .

Matthew 16:25-26 (ESV)

(25) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (26) For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? **Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?**

"Obedience is the engine of transformation" - **Dave Buehring**

The Process: Repentance & Obedience based on what God Reveals is our Participation in Transformation!

Rich Villodas on Transformation (The Deeply Formed Life) - New Life Fellowship in Queens, NY

"God is committed to our transformation. He is not in the business of simply improving our lives; he wants to infuse them with His life. Everyday He moves towards us in love, reaching, seeking, and pleading with us to pay attention."

2) Application - The ADJ Plan for 2022

a) Personal Study (1-1.5 Hours a week)

- **Pray** - Before for Revelation & After for Reflection & Application
- **Study the Book** - 12 chapters / 48 weeks - Take Notes, Answer Questions
- **Study the Bible** - Look up the passages mentioned, do a deep dive on a story or topic

b) Teaching - to learn things we may not know, to gain a new perspective or approach to the material

- **Weekly Video:** 10-15 minutes to kick-off each week (watch your email inbox)
- **Sunday Sermon:** Follows your weekly study of the material

c) Life Group - processing & application in a group setting (reflecting on the previous week)

Conclusion: Let's commit to learning & growing together this year - with the aim of becoming disciplemakers!