



## Sermon Outline: Built to Last – Week 2

### Introduction

- Transitioning from believer to disciple is challenging.
  - Many connect with Jesus or get baptized but struggle afterward.
  - The miracle of salvation is a **change in the heart**, not just words or actions.
  - **2 Corinthians 5:17** – Becoming a new creation in Christ is a process.
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### Core Belief

- We desire to cultivate strong disciples through Bible-centered preaching, teaching, and worship.
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### I. What Does It Mean to Cultivate?

- **Definition of Cultivate:**
  - Prepare for use.
  - Foster growth.
  - Improve by labor, care, or study.
- **A.W. Tozer:** "The unattended garden will soon be overrun with weeds; the heart that fails to cultivate truth will shortly be a theological wilderness."

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## II. The Challenge of Discipleship

- Salvation cannot be earned; it was finished at the cross.
- Partnering with Jesus requires intentionality and understanding.

### A. Jesus' Early Ministry

- Leading to John 6, the disciples witnessed:
    - Prophecies.
    - Water turned to wine.
    - Temple cleansing.
    - Conversations with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.
    - Various healings.
  - **John 6:** Feeding 5,000 (1-13), walking on water (16-21), teaching on communion.
  - **John 6:60-66:** Many disciples turned away when faced with hard truths.
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## III. The Cost of Following Jesus

- Jesus never promised an easy road.

### A. It May Cost Family

- **Mark 3:31-33** – Redefining family.

### B. It May Cost Security

- **Matthew 8:22 (Luke 9:59-62)** – Following without conditions.

### C. It May Cost Life

- **Matthew 10:37-39** – Taking up your cross.

### D. Sacrifices Are Not in Vain

- **Matthew 11:28-30** – Rest for the weary.

### E. The Cost of Discipleship distinguishes it from just acknowledgement

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## IV. Love, Acceptance, and Forgiveness

- The world redefines these terms, but Scripture provides clarity:
- Book by Jerry Cook with Stanley C Baldwin
- Love is not a license

- Acceptance is not Agreement
- Forgiveness is not Compromise

### **1. Love Is Receiving Correction**

- **Proverbs 3:11-12** – The Lord disciplines those He loves.
- **Hebrews 12:5-6** – Discipline is a sign of God's love.

### **2. Acceptance Is Cutting Away our Sinful nature**

- **Colossians 2:10-14** – Spiritual circumcision: removing sinful nature.

### **3. Forgiveness Is Making Room for Something Beautiful**

- **Hebrews 6:7-8** – Fruitful cultivation brings blessing; neglect brings judgment.
- **Ezekiel 36:33-35** – God's cleansing transforms desolate places into fruitful gardens.

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## **Conclusion**

- Cultivation is an active process that distinguishes a true disciple from a mere believer.
- Commitment to Christ may cost greatly, but it leads to a transformed life filled with God's blessings.