



Sunday January 3rd 2021
"What is a Disciple?"
Luke 9:23-27

Good Morning!!

If this is your first time in church, or first time in a long time We believe two things about you today,

#1 You are not here by accident

#2 God desires to meet with you today -

Happy New Year!

- You will be the same you that you were last year There is nothing fundamental different about this year than last year - it requires a transformational work done by the Holy Spirit of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

++SLIDE++

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Yesterday is about Jesus...Today is about Jesus...Tomorrow is about Jesus

Series introduction: Three Dimensional Discipleship

A series on what it means to pursue Jesus with our whole life. We will be examining Jesus teachings, interactions with his disciples and personal life of faith and dependance upon God the Father. We will be using memorable and reproducible tools/ shapes to help create a shared language of discipleship -

Community Group leaders have all spent 6 weeks training in these tools and they will be the counterpoint of how we talk, live and pursue Jesus as a church.

++SLIDE++

“What is a disciple? ”

As an introduction to discipleship I thought we might begin today with covering what exactly a disciple is....

Simply put - A disciple is someone who follows another person or a way of life and who submits himself to the discipline (teaching) of that leader or way.

Mandalorian - Is a student of “The Way”

Jesus gathered 12 disciples during his earthly ministry while others who were sympathetic to his teaching and life followed him were also called disciples

They followed a teacher who embodied the substance of that teaching

**Read the Passage from the bible! Read it. Write it. Speak it. Share it. Luke 9:23-27
PRAY.**

INTRODUCTION of the passage: Luke 9:23-25

Intro the Content of the book of Luke -

1. One of the Synoptic Gospel
2. Authored by Dr. Luke same as the book of Acts
3. Purpose is to reveal the life and ministry of Jesus as the Savior of Mankind

Intro the Context of the passage:

Jesus has just asked his disciples two questions; Who do the people say that I am?
Who do you say that I am?

That is a very important question, perhaps

THE QUESTION of your life “Who do you say that Jesus is?” - in fact how you answer this question will in fact determine whether you are a disciple today.

Peter has answered correctly Jesus then instructs his disciples and those gathered around to Him about exactly what it means that he is “The Christ of God” (Luke 9:20, ESV)

++SLIDE++ Main Idea: A Disciple is a follower of Jesus.

Three conditions of discipleship are laid out.

++SLIDE ++

A disciple is one who pursues Jesus. (Luke 9:23a)

To move to or to be Moving toward: Jesus

This opposed to the others ways, walks and worldview available to us.

More and more the Christians worldview stands out and in opposition to the world views around us.

The predominant world view that is among is that of identity politics and something called intersectionality

Reduces people to a specific box based upon gender, skin color, sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic class etc... Then used upon these identities or the intersection of them assigns guilt or innocence based upon the reception of "power" those identified have enjoyed. For example....

For the Christian we believe in a power and identity worldview as well.

We are powerless to rescue ourselves Jesus alone has the power.

Our identity is rooted in Jesus Christ. Who he is and what he accomplished.

For a disciple this is fundamental...our identity begins with being one who pursues Jesus.

This move to and toward Jesus involves at least three elements

++SLIDE++

A disciple is one who denies themselves

This is much more radical than we think: It is a change or action that is fundamental, and far-reaching.

It affects the very nature of who we are rather than simply a denial of certain things.

This denial of self isn't about:

This isn't about what music you listen to, TV & movies you binge watch, the friends you hang out with or the stuff you are into (While these things are important, to reduce the

denial of self to outward moral conformity is nothing short of legalism...The same mistake the pharisees made)

this is a call to a radical(far-reaching, fundamental) change in your nature it is a rejection of a life lived upon based upon

++SLIDE++

Denial of self requires:

A. Rejection of **self-interest** - All about me (Social media fixation, fascination, never more connected and yet feelings of isolation and anxiety are higher)

B. Rejection of **self-fulfillment** - hyper focus on meeting my own needs and wants

C. Rejection **self centeredness**. - living with no care or concern for others . My needs even at your expense

Instead a disciple is to fulfill the will and the teachings of Christ. That is

++SLIDE++

A. A Pursuit of others before self -

++SLIDE++

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, - Philippians 2:3-5 (ESV)

++SLIDE++

B. A priority of other's needs above our own -

++SLIDE++

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35 (ESV)

++SLIDE++

C. A placement of Christ at the Center of our lives - Centripetal force of our life

++SLIDE++

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. - Colossians 1:15-18

++SLIDE++

A disciple is one who takes up their cross daily.

The cross as a governmental instrument of execution and death - it would be similar to our electric chair or lethal injection. The Roman Crucifixion was the means by which they would unwanted people to death. It was particularly awful. It involved suspending an individual in mid air at the suffocation point. Securing them to a wooden cross at the wrist and ankle joints. A person would push down upon their wounds to take a breathe and then rest and do it over and over until they asphyxiated.

Jesus says to be a disciple we must take up our cross....**Daily?** Today because of what Jesus has done the cross is a symbol of hope. This was not the case when Jesus gave these instructions.

It was an instrument of torture and death.

TWO WAYS we take up our own Cross

1. Taking up The cross as they place our old nature is put to death,

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20

Sin is put to death in our lives by the way of the Cross. It must be suffocated. It must be starved of oxygen. Robbed of what gives it life....

2. Taking up the cross a the symbol us willing to suffer and bear the name of Jesus.

What Jesus is saying here is that when we take the name Christian, and openly identify ourselves with Christ, we must be ready not only to bear the normal suffering that life brings, but to share in the particular suffering of Christ.

SLIDE #7 A disciple is one who follows Jesus.

In contrast to the other conditions this verb is a present imperative, indicating that following Jesus must be continual.

“May the dust of your Rabbi be upon you”

Practically this requires a development of a **Daily relationship with Jesus.**

1. Bible reading and studying (Inductive Bible study method)
2. Prayer - listening and speaking ACTS
3. Worship - internal devotion to God acknowledged in daily life

In order to become a disciple there are two things you must believe and one thing you must do.

First, you must believe God’s Word when it says that you cannot help yourself spiritually. That You are a sinner and are among the imperfect misfits that Jesus came for.

Second, you must believe that Jesus is able to do what you cannot do. You cannot save yourself, but he can save you. That’s he is the great physician come for the sick and suffering. That You, like the church are not perfect but Jesus is.

That Jesus died for you to remove your sin. That He rose from the dead so that you might know that God is satisfied with what He has done on your behalf forever.

Finally, you must commit yourself to him. The Bible speaks of this in different ways, but in each case it is clear that it involves an act of our will. It says that we are to believe in Jesus, which means that we are to place ourselves in his hands.

Questions for Reflection:

Who is Jesus?

What is your life currently orbiting around?

What do you need to ask God to put to death in your old nature?

Am I ready (willing?) to suffer for the name of Jesus?

Am I a disciple of Jesus?