

Sermon Guide



“The Way of Practice” September 18, 2022

“Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”
Luke 6:46-49

1. **Dallas Willard wrote, “We have now come to the place where we can be a Christian forever without ever becoming a disciple.”** Does this resonate with you? Do you see active and eager discipleship in your own life? If not, how would you describe your discipleship?
2. **Stacey talked about the way the early church was known. “... They knew that they had been with Jesus.”** Stacey said we aren't starving for more information about Jesus but instead intimacy with Him. Does this seem true? In what ways?
 1. Have you ever encountered someone who knew Jesus to a far greater extent than they knew about Jesus? What characterized that person?
3. **“... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded...” (Matthew 28:20).** Why do many believers seem to misunderstand the call to obey Christ?
 1. What questions do you personally experience as you consider that call? What excites you? What concerns you?
4. **“Some of us believe we aren't disciplined people, but we all practice disciplines. The question is simply, ‘what are they’? Are they intentional or unintentional? Do they cultivate more of Christ in your heart?”** What things might you be giving yourself to that create postures of your heart? What results are those habits and practices getting you?
5. **RD gave us five steps to take as we wade deeper into the Christ life. How is that going?** The Five As are:
 1. **Audit** your life.
 2. **Admit** where you are.
 3. **Attend** to your heart. What feelings come up? What is happening in your inner life? How is your heart actually doing?
 4. **Abide** in Jesus. Abiding is greater than striving.
 5. **Arrange** your life so that it produces different fruit.

We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus. As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?

Prayer Prompt: As RD and Stacey said, practices in themselves do not change us. Practices simply allow us to draw close to the One who can. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you, His grace to comfort you as you stumble forward, and love for Him to motivate you. (You cannot earn His love. But you can love Him enough to walk with Him.)