

## Pastor's Welcome Class 4 Key

### *The Vision of Cornerstone Church Amarillo*

#### I. The Vision of Cornerstone Church Amarillo

- A. (Pro. 29:18a KJV) *Where there is no vision, the people perish...*
- B. God's people must have a clear vision for their lives.
- C. Without vision things come undone, but there is great strength and renewal in focusing on a God given vision for your life.
- D. The first step to aligning with God's family at Cornerstone Amarillo is to align with the vision the Lord has given to us as a church.
- E. *Our vision statement at Cornerstone Church Amarillo is...*

#### Knowing, Following, and Sharing the Unchanging Jesus!

#### II. To begin with it is important to notice that Jesus is Unchanged.

- A. I remember when I was in school reading a text from one of my science books that said, "the only thing that is constant is change itself."
- B. Well, that is simply not true. (Heb. 13:8 NKJV) <sup>8</sup>*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*
- C. He is unchanged.
- D. (Acts 1:9-11 NKJV) says, <sup>9</sup>*Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup>who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*
- E. The same Jesus who was taken up to heaven in sight of the apostles, will soon return to this earth to set up His kingdom.
- F. Over the last 2,000 years He has not changed. He is still Lord and Savior, Healer, Deliverer, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Miracle Worker, Provider, and Shepherd to us.
- G. He still works in people's lives today the same way He did when He walked on the earth in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- H. So when we talk about Knowing Him, Following Him, and Sharing Him, we mean that we are Knowing, Following, and Sharing the very same Jesus who came to earth and walked with men in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

I. He has not changed. He can be known personally. He still calls disciples to follow Him, and the highest privilege in life is to share Him with others.

H. Any other pursuit or vision for living pales in comparison.

### III. Knowing Jesus

A. In (Phil. 3:10a AMP) Paul said, <sup>10</sup>*[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly]... So then, how does a person progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Jesus?*

B. First, you must receive Him into your life as your personal Lord and Savior.

1. (John 1:12, 13 NKJV) <sup>12</sup>*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

2. (Rev. 3:20 NKJV) <sup>20</sup>*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

3. (Rom. 10:9 NKJV) <sup>9</sup>*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

C. Second, once you have received Him as your personal Lord and Savior, you must learn to know Him by fellowshipping with Him in His Word and in prayer.

1. (John 5:39 NKJV) <sup>39</sup>*"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

2. (John 16:23, 24 NKJV) <sup>23</sup>*"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. <sup>24</sup>"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

D. Third, we come to know Him better as we learn to obey His commandments. Jesus has promised to reveal Himself to those who obey Him. (John 14:21 AMP) <sup>21</sup>*The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]*

### IV. Following Jesus

A. In (Matt. 4:18, 19 NKJV) Jesus called Peter and Andrew, <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

B. The phrase, "follow me" means "come after me".

C. This is how He calls people. He speaks to individuals personally and says, "Follow Me. Come after Me."

D. (John 12:26 NKJV) <sup>26</sup> *"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. To anyone who desires to serve Him He says, "Follow Me." "Come after Me."*

E. What is involved in following Jesus? Four things that are necessary to follow Jesus.

**1. Following Jesus requires hearing His voice.**

a. (John 10:27 NKJV) <sup>27</sup> *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

b. Who follows Jesus? Those who hear His voice.

c. Hearing His voice requires intimacy with Him.

d. Intimacy requires knowing Him.

e. That is why knowing Him must be the most important pursuit in your life.

**2. Following Jesus requires denying yourself.**

a. (Luke 9:23 NKJV) <sup>23</sup> *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

b. Deny self? Take up the cross? These ideas are contrary to our modern church culture in America, but this is what Jesus requires.

c. Following Jesus will require denying your own ideas and plans for your life and your own way of doing things, and yielding to His.

d. Following Him means crucifying your flesh with its lusts and affections by learning to walk in the Spirit. That is what it means to take up the cross.

**3. Following Jesus requires a daily pursuit.**

a. (Luke 9:23 NKJV) <sup>23</sup> *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

b. This willingness to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus must take place on a daily basis.

**4. Following Jesus is a requirement for fulfilling the destiny He has for you.**

a. Following Jesus implies a journey. He is taking you somewhere.

b. The journey He has for your life leads to the fulfillment of the destiny He has planned just for you.

c. The only way you can get into your destiny is to follow Him into it.

d. (Jer. 29:11 NIV) *<sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

## V. Sharing Jesus

A. Sharing Jesus with others is the natural by product of following Him.

B. (Matt. 4:18, 19 NKJV) *<sup>18</sup>And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

C. As you faithfully follow Jesus He will transform you into a fisher of men.

D. So, how do we fish for men? We fish for men by lifting up Jesus.

E. When we lift Him up, He draws people to Himself.

F. (John 12:32 NKJV) *<sup>32</sup>"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."*

G. Our job is to lift Him up to people. His job is to draw people to Himself.

H. He does that whenever we lift Him up.

I. We are not lifting up religion; we are lifting up the person of Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:42 NKJV) *<sup>42</sup>And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

## VI. At Cornerstone Church Amarillo we are following this vision in the context of our local church family.

A. In other words, we are **Knowing, Following, and Sharing the Unchanging Jesus together**.

B. We were not designed by God to follow Jesus alone.

C. God's design for every believer in Jesus is to live this new life in connection with a local church.

1. (Acts 2:47 NKJV) *<sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

2. (Acts 2:42 NKJV) *<sup>42</sup>And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

3. (Phil. 1:27 NKJV) <sup>27</sup>*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*

D. As we shall see in future lessons, the ministries of Cornerstone Church Amarillo are designed to strengthen each one of us in our commitment to Know, Follow, and Share the Unchanging Jesus.