

“Alternative Culture” : Telling Another Story of Transformation | Wk 5

2/7/2021 | @[ASeattleChurch](#)

“The Life” by [Ilze Gideons](#) (with [Nthabi Mushi](#) and [Arlene Bartolome](#))

SERMON NOTES:

Ilze invited the Spirit to come and speak to us about what it means to live “the life” of Jesus, if he were living your life in 2021. To look closer at our third “circle” of our “four circles of transformation” at ASC (see our logo for reference).

To take inventory of the “red dot” of where we are on the map of our relationship with Jesus.

She shared her testimony of how one week with God as a camp as a teenager revealed to her the life God had for her. That God was calling her as a teenager to be a “world-changer.” God embedded in her “the great commission” on her heart from Matthew 28:18-20. That God showed her she would never be alone in that journey and that it was to be one where she “made disciples” as Christ has commanded us all to do as well.

This was for her a responsibility and a privilege to be called worthy of the work Christ would send her to do as ministry to “the nations.” She had to first learn who Jesus was. She discovered that Jesus was incredibly intentional with his life and how he spent it, how he spoke, and what he did. We are called to the same type of discipline to attain the character of Christ ourselves. That disciples are not just followers of Jesus but they “do what he did” by “hearing his words and putting them in to practice.”

She noted how Jesus’ conversation with his disciples in John 14 modeled this dynamic. After washing his disciples feet who all would eventually betray (Judas) or desert him (every other one except John), Jesus spoke to their doubts about his plan for salvation. They said they did not know how to get where he was going. He declared that he was “the way, the truth and the life.” He told them that “nobody could get to the father except through him.” That is they really know him, they will know the Father and his will for their life.

She noted how we all have “one life to live” and asked “how will you make it count?” for God’s kingdom. She challenged us to answer “what will we do with our one precious life” (Mary Oliver)

As a result, she has since been sent to 20 nations around the world, as a missionary, and has sought to embody this calling wherever she has gone as an ambassador in Jesus’ name. She also has been able to help make disciples of two amazing women who we got to hear from in Nthabi and Arlene. They each shared about how they have been transformed by “living Jesus’ life” in trust.

Arlene spoke about how God penetrates her daily work as a medical executive. How she approaches her employee reviews in prayer in a way that calls out and affirms God’s identity. Nthabi about how God has called her to be a person of who changes atmospheres through joy. To bring hope in the tough circumstances her community is facing.

Ultimately, Ilze invited folks to put their faith in Jesus by giving him their life for the first or 1000th time. To let Jesus be their salvation and full life. To answer “what is is that you want to do in my life, Lord”

Supplemental Study: “Going Deeper”

Read the end of the sermon on the mount in [Matthew 7:24-29](#). Consider how God chose this to be the closing emphasis of Jesus’ most known sermon about discipleship. Consider how the crowd and disciples respond to Jesus speaking as if he “has authority” for understanding what life is most about. Jump over to [James 1:22](#) and consider how there is no true discipleship that doesn’t live in our “practices.” What is the relationship like between your beliefs and practices? Do you like to hear Jesus’ words and yet not put them in to practice in your life? Is it easy to believe without becoming? To agree with Jesus without assuming the call on your life to be and make disciples as he did? What area of your life would Christ identify as being “on a shaky foundation.” Where would you need “to put his words in to practice” to find more firm footing in your faith?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. What is an irrational fear that you had growing up?
2. If you had to choose one food to eat for the rest of your life, what would it be?

WORD: “Truth”

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (this week, see notes above):**
- Read John 14:6, Matthew 7:24-29, or James 1:22 together outloud:

Introduce or refresh SOAP to your group, then read the text and lead them through.

S- Scripture: Read the text

O- Observations: What stood out, what makes you curious, what questions do you have

A- Application: How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting?

P- Prayer: Pray the text in your own words, pray about what resonated with you, pray regarding your application...

APPLICATION: “Life”:

1. What are some areas in God’s plan for your life that you are experiencing doubt? In what areas do you doubt that God can use you and why?

2. In which spaces and/or with which people has God been pressing on you to be intentional with? How is God calling you to make it count for His kingdom?

PRAYER “Truth” (options of how to pray in your group)

1. Pray for God to release us of the doubts that cause us to hesitate in living the life of Jesus.
2. Ask God for wisdom and faithfulness in approaching the spaces and people He’s called us to. Also, vision to see where else he is sending us.
3. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. **Awesome:** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations we receive to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our city & world!
2. **Invite a friend and join us online:**
 - a. Feb 14: We continue “Alternative Culture” talking about our 4th circle: “Together”
3. **All-Church Prayer Calls:**
 - a. Wednesday’s from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
 - b. Friday Mornings from 6:30am-7am 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
4. **Young Adult Night:** On February 22, we will be hosting a Young Adult Virtual hangout, Brice will be speaking on managing stress and anxiety. Signup on the website or the free ASC app. <https://aseattlechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/720442>
5. **Get Involved:** If you are interested in serving at church, we have several opportunities for you to do so.
 - a. Hospitality: Help serve our production team when they record on Sundays
 - b. Media: Are you a photographer, a writer, editor or graphic designer, sound engeneer, we have an opportunity for you to volunteer your gifts and talents.

Email info@aseattlechurch.com and Amanda will connect you with the right ministry leader.

6. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? **HERE**
7. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**
8. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**