



June 20, 2021 | Eric Smith

Sermon Summary

At the beginning of His earthly ministry, Jesus modeled investing in a few. He had throngs of people following Him, yet we're told in Luke's Gospel that He prayerfully and intentionally invested in a few. "One day Jesus went up on a mountain to pray. He prayed all night to God. In the morning He called His followers to Him. He chose twelve of them and called them." (Luke 6:12&13, NIV). These are the same twelve who were gathered with Jesus at the Passover meal prior to his crucifixion (Luke 22:14-23). The last earthly command of Jesus prior to His ascension was directed to ALL of His followers: "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Making disciples is what investing in a few is all about. All followers of Jesus Christ are given the command and the privilege of investing in a few. So, maybe you are asking yourself, "How do I invest in a few?" This study based on truths found in the bible will encourage you on your journey of investing in a few.

Diving Into The Message

Three choices you must be willing to MAKE to begin investing in those around you.

1. Choose to encourage others spiritually.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:10&11 (NLT)

2. Choose to support others emotionally.

Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.

Romans 12:15 (NIV)

3. Choose to appropriately challenge others to think.

If you keep company with wise friends, you'll become wise. But if you make friends with foolish people, your life will fall to pieces.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

FACTORS FOR SUCCESS AS YOU INVEST IN A FEW

1. BE AUTHENTIC: Be yourself.

We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes.

2 Corinthians 4:2 (MES)

Jesus: "The second greatest command is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself!'"

Matthew 22:39 (NIV)

2. BE INTERESTED: Listen.

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Philippians 2:4 (NLT)

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.

James 1:19 (NIV)

3. BE DEPENDABLE: Stick with them.

There are 'friends' who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24 (LB)

A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

Job 6:14 (NIV)

4. BE DISCREET: Keep confidences.

A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

Proverbs 11:13 (NLT)

5. BE CANDID: Tell them the truth in love!

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

Living Sent

BOTTOM LINE!

BE CHRISTLIKE: Love them unconditionally

*Accept each other, just as Christ accepted you. **Romans 15:7 (NIV)***

Action Plan: Spend time this week evaluating your willingness to invest in a few. Ask God to direct you to those you can begin investing in. You may be investing in a few already, with Christ as your guide, begin to be more intentional as you implement the factors for success.



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Life Application Questions

1. Read the scripture cited in the introduction (Luke 6:12&13, Luke 22:14-23, & Matthew 28:18-20).
2. How did Jesus begin to invest in a few (Luke 6:12&13)?
3. Discuss the “Judas factor” found in Luke 22:14-23. From the example of Jesus we can see that intentional investment in a person does not guarantee what we might call a “good” outcome. Do you think the “Judas factor” can be a hindrance to investing in a few? Why or why not?
4. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus speaks of His authority and issues the commission for His followers to make disciples. What is included in His commission? (Teaching, Obedience, the Promise to be with His followers)
5. Who invested (is investing) in you? How did you experience that person’s choice to a. encourage you spiritually, b. support you emotionally, and/or c. challenge your thinking?
6. Review the “Factors for Success.” Discuss the factors that are a challenge to you with your group. Agree to pray for one another as you determine to INVEST IN A FEW.

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