

# **SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

“No Excuse Disciples” – Pastor Chad Gilligan

10.1.23

- 1) Have you ever experienced an unexpected interruption that turned out to be the perfect timing?**
- 2) What misconceptions have you personally had or heard from others about following Christ?**

Read Matthew 7:21 - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

- 3) How can you tell if you are walking with the crowd or seeking to please the Lord?**

Read Mark 8:34-36 – “Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”

- 4) What are your initial thoughts when reading this passage?**
- 5) God values obedience over stability. How can we lean away from reliance on stability to obedience?**

Read Matthew 8:21-22 – “Another disciple said to him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.’”

- 6) Sometimes we try to hide behind wisdom when in reality we use it as an excuse. How do we decipher what is truly wisdom and what is an excuse?**

Read Matthew 28:18-20 – “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

- 7) What has your relationship with missions looked like in the past? How can you grow in our call to make disciples?**