

All This Matters

There's So Much More To Following Jesus

July 24, 2022

Matthew 28:19 Go & make disciples of all the nations...

Daily habits & practices of being a Jesus follower. A disciple. Disciples are followers who are looking for direction from their Master

Come - Near to Jesus; Hear - Pay Attention; Do - Obey, Practice

John 13:35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you're My disciples.

God is counting us to show the world His love & goodness!

SOUL CARE - Mental, Emotional, & Physical Health

Today's talk is about allowing the Holy Spirit to take care of our souls. Let's focus our life on more things that make room for our soul's wellness.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May the God of peace make you holy in every way, & may your whole spirit & soul & body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

The toxic influences of the world causes many of us to barely survive &/ or at best, struggle thru life.

We carry all of these toxins inside our hearts/minds - our souls.

How does your discipleship/Christian life feel?

Our discipleship/Christian life is a process, not a goal or a destination. Let's talk about the value of an experiential relationship w/ Jesus.

*Experience His presence; Hear the voice of the Lord; Know His call.
Live a "With God" life; Seek, find, & connect w/ Jesus.*

Sense His presence. Disciples are people of His presence...

Healing, peace, transformation & detox; it all happens in His presence.

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you w/ inner strength through His Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love & keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, & how deep His love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete w/ all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. 20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to Him in the church & in Christ Jesus through all generations forever & ever! Amen.

Our core identity needs to be, "I'm loved by Jesus, that's who I am."

God lovingly invites us into His plan, His story, and His life.

Mark 6:30 NIV The apostles gathered around Jesus & reported to Him all they had done & taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming & going that they didn't even have a chance to eat, He said to them, "**Come w/ Me by yourselves to a quiet place & get some rest.**" 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

God wants to heal, speak, strengthen, answer, bring peace, etc.

Psalm 34:8 Taste & see that the Lord is good. Oh the joys of those who take refuge in Him.

Life is busy, anxious, volatile, out-of-control, uncertain, complex, etc.

Matthew 11:28 MSG *Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away w/ Me & you will recover your life. I will show you how to take a real rest. Walk w/ Me & work w/ Me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company w/ Me & you will learn to live freely & lightly.*

Walk - willing to be in step and interact with Him; be “all there”; put aside your schedule and distractions; be vulnerable; build a relationship

Work - cooperation; energy; desire; communication; willing learner; perseverance; submission; humility; (don’t focus on abilities/skills)

Watch - attentive to His presence; focus on His ways; look and see (eye contact); paying close attention

We have to cultivate practices and rhythms to keep our hearts attentive. So many things take us away from what God wants to do in our life.

We live in a distracted culture. Everyone is so distracted, all of the time! As disciples, we commit to eliminate distractions.

Our attention is for sale. We must be economical with our attention. Attention is a powerful tool of the human spirit.

“What you pay attention to, controls your life.”

And vice versa

“What you don’t pay attention to, has no influence in your life.”

OR

“We are attentive to that which we are focused on.”

And vice versa

“We are not attentive to that which we are not focused on.”

Focus on more things that bring life to our souls & healing to our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

TPT So above all, guard the affections of your heart, for they affect all that you are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life.

Your soul, your heart runs your life.

Let’s be present to listen, to watch, to understand, and to pay attention.

Deuteronomy 6:3 Listen closely Israel & be careful to obey. Then **all will go well w/ you** & you will have many children in the land flowing w/ milk & honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors promised you. 4 Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 You must love the Lord your God w/ all your heart, all your soul, & all your strength 6 You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again & again to your children. Talk about them when you're at home & when you're on the road, when you're going to bed, & when you're getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands & wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house & on your gates.

Let's be disciples who are present, focused, & engaged; ready to obey.

Jesus desires a relational response. Jesus is personal.

1 Samuel 3:1 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, & visions were quite uncommon. 2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, & Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" 5 He got up & ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did. 6 Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again, Samuel got up & went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed." 7 Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. 8 So the Lord called a third time, & once more Samuel got up & went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. 9 So he said to Samuel, "Go & lie down again, & if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. 10 And the Lord came & called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."