



Intimacy with God through Discipleship

WORSHIP: One way Jesus/ I want to see Jesus lifted high/ Jesus lover of my soul/ It's all about You

WELCOME:

Recite the following verses:

1. Psalm 23
2. John 3:16
3. Matthew 28:18-20

How are these verses related? What do these verses mean to me?

WORD:

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

Psalm 23 and Exodus 33 conveys to us the beauty and the importance of having an intimate relationship with God. When we allow Jesus to shepherd us, we become rested in His presence and then become distinguished. When we follow the Shepherd, we have nothing to be worried about because we will be provided for. We have nothing to fear because we will be protected from harm. This is what makes us different. This is what sets us apart.

But before we can be set apart, we must ask ourselves these questions: Are we His sheep? Are we His disciples? How do we know if we are truly His sheep disciples? John 10:27-28 tells us ²⁷*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.”*

- We are already saved. But we should remember that it is not in the “knowing” that we are saved but rather in the “living out” of our salvation that we become truly His children.
- When we hear His voice and obey Him, God is pleased. (Romans 1:17; Hebrew 11:6)
- Faithfulness is to listen to God’s voice and obey even if we think it doesn’t make any sense.
- True disciples commit their lives to God. They are consumed by their love for God and exhaust their energy in trying to please Him.
- Often times when we practice obedience, we become vulnerable just like sitting ducks. And sometimes that scares us.
- But allowing ourselves to become vulnerable and helpless is just how the world perceives us. When we allow ourselves to become helpless as we obey and follow the Shepherd, God sees this as faithfulness.

What are some ways that we allow ourselves to become vulnerable and helpless? Here are some examples

1. When God asks us not to take vengeance (Matthew 5:38-40)
2. When God asks us to love our enemies (Luke 6:27)
3. When God asks us to be selfless, to think of others first. (Ephesians 5:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 3:7; Philippians 2:3-4)
4. When God asks us to forgive (Matthew 18:21-22)
5. When God asks us to always be thankful even during times of adversities (1 Thessalonians 5: 16,18)

- A disciple is not born, disciples are made. And that is why Jesus gave us the Great Commission.
- Making disciples is an intentional and lifelong process.
- The main purpose of discipleship is to nurture faithfulness as we journey towards Christ-likeness

What are the benefits of discipleship?

1. Benefits to the new Christian/ disciple
 - a. Hebrews 5:12
 - b. As new Christians we need to be nurtured. Without nurturing we cannot grow.
 - c. As new believers we all need someone to help us grow similar to how a baby needs milk and nurturing.
2. Benefits to the discipler
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - b. Dead Sea versus the Sea of Tiberius
 - i. The Dead Sea – it just keeps receiving but there are no outlets and so there is no life
 - ii. The Sea of Tiberius – is alive and vibrant because there are a lot of outlets and life can flow through it
 - c. When we disciple others, we do not become stagnant instead we continue to grow
3. Benefit to the church
 - a. We have been used to being spectators that we find it difficult to get involved in church
 - b. We have to be a church who are willing to be disciplined and to disciple
 - c. This is the only way a church can thrive – through discipleship.

Discussion:

1. Are you willing to be disciplined?
2. What can hinder you/ what is hindering you from being disciple or discipling?
3. How can discipling/ being disciple benefit you?

WORKS:

Understanding the Great Commission can help us plan out our goals for the rest of 2012. What are my insights/ plans for:

1. BELIEVE. When is my spiritual birthday? Is my believing only confined to the intellect or am I passionate about my beliefs?
2. GROW. How far have I grown since I first received Jesus as my Lord and Savior? How do I plan to continue to nurture my spiritual growth?
3. DISCIPLE. Am I involved in a discipleship group? Have I allowed myself to enter into an accountability relationship? Am I ready to disciple others? Am I discipling others? What motivates me to disciple others?
4. MULTIPLY. How am I able to contribute to the Great Commission and CCF's mission of making Christ-committed followers who are making Christ-committed followers?

Let us continue to pray for one another as we journey towards Christ-likeness, as we ask the Lord to enlighten us and enable to be a part of His Great Commission, allowing us to become outlets of His blessings as He continues to provide for us and protect us. Let us be thankful and find joy as we continue in partnership with Jesus, confident that He who began His work in us will bring it to completion.