

Dimensions of Discipleship

John 1:19-51

Bethany Assembly of God

9/17/2023

Central Proposition: You should follow Jesus.

Introduction

This is the second week in our series through the Gospel of John. We're learning about Jesus' life and what it means to believe in Him so that we can have life in His name. See John 1:19-51. By paying careful attention to Jesus' early interactions with His disciples in these verses, we're going to discover four dimensions of discipleship. There are others, but these are some of the foundational components of what it means to follow Jesus.

1. You must transfer your allegiance to Jesus.

Two weeks ago, we read John 1:1-18 and heard the claims about Jesus. John the Baptist is the first witness to Jesus so that we can understand who He is and what He came to do. Read his testimony in John 1:19-34.

- When John refers to “Jews from Jerusalem,” he was using it as a designation for the elites. The elites from Jerusalem were concerned about John the Baptist. Crowds were going out to him and he was having a big influence on people. I want to point out the three highlights of John's testimony and I think you'll see that John was calling people to transfer their allegiance to Jesus.
 - ✓ The first emphasis of his testimony was baptism.
 - ✓ The second emphasis of his testimony was to make sure everyone knew that Jesus was what he had been preparing everyone for, that Jesus was the Messiah.
 - ✓ The third part of John's testimony was that Jesus had come with a different kind of baptism; He would baptize in the Holy Spirit. John was preparing people for a radical change. He was calling people to prepare their hearts and be ready to give their faith and loyalty to God's Anointed One, the Savior.

2. You must trust Jesus to define you.

Read verses 35-51. Notice what happens to Simon; he comes to Jesus and Jesus immediately renames him.

- Jesus sees us better than we see ourselves not only because He's our Creator, but because He's our Savior. If you want to be a disciple, Jesus will redefine you. He did it to Nathanael as well.

3. You must learn who Jesus is.

To be a disciple means to be with Jesus. He wants a living relationship with you through His Word, His Spirit, and His Church, that is, by obeying what He teaches, walking in the Spirit, and loving other believers. Sometimes we express this idea by saying that Jesus wants a relationship, not religion.

4. You must invite others.

In the words of Bible teacher Gary Burge, *"In each case the experience of discipleship carries one more dimension. John the Baptist, Andrew, and Philip each bring others to Jesus quite intentionally. Converts make new converts. They speak what they know about Jesus and they bring other people along so that they too will 'come and see.'"*

Conclusion

So, from the testimony of John the Baptist and John the Gospel writer, we learn that discipleship involves at least these foundational dimensions: transferring your allegiance to Jesus, trusting Jesus to define you, learning who Jesus is, and inviting others to know Him.