

Jesus & You, Jesus and Peter, part II:

Discipleship/Discipling

09/13/2020 Sermon

Intro: When Jesus ascended back to Heaven, he had around only 600 followers (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). How did this movement go from less than a thousand followers to most influential religion in the world? By the power of love and the cross (John 12:32) and by the power of discipleship and discipling. Jesus told his followers “As you go, DISCIPLE all nations...” (Matthew 28:18-20). Let’s look at Peter’s relationship with Jesus further:

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20

- a. Jesus built up Peter. He was a great encourager. Friendship and encouragement should be the basis of discipling relationships.
- b. How encouraging are you? Hebrews 3:13 tells us to encourage one another DAILY. Do you have daily contact with disciples?
- c. When the Holy Spirit puts someone on your heart, do you call/text/visit them?

2. Read Matthew 16:21-27.

- a. Proverbs 27:5-6 says that “wounds from a friend can be trusted”. There are times in our relationships with other disciples that we need to challenge one another on ways we can be more like Jesus. Correction and Rebuking are a part of what we use the word of God for (2 Timothy 3:16).
- b. The key is that we need to disciple people to JESUS, and not to us. Particularly when challenging someone on errors or sins in their life, we need to use Scripture and point people back to Jesus, not just to our opinions.
- c. In the same way that the Holy Spirit will ping you to encourage someone, the Holy Spirit will tell you when you need to speak up about something in a brother/sister’s life. God may be using you, speaking through you to help someone be a better follower of Jesus. Do you have spiritual friendships where you hold each other accountable and challenge one another spiritually?

3. Read Matthew 17:24-27

- a. Doing life together is an extremely important piece of discipling relationships. We need to not only be “brothers and sisters in Christ” but also FRIENDS. Jesus, at some point, began living with Peter when they would return to Capernaum. It became his home away from home. How

much extra curricular time do you spend with other disciples? Dinners, movies, game nights, sporting events, etc.

b. Our life groups should be based in friendship and our mutual followership of Jesus. Do you hang out together? Do you also have Bible discussions/talks together?

c. Jesus said that the world will know we are his disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35). Discipling has to be based in love, friendship and relationship and not at all on authority. Some people have Paul/Timothy relationships, and many others have Paul/Barnabas relationships. For older Christians, are you mentoring the younger Christians in your life? For younger Christians, are you seeking out spiritual mentors? Do we have all great friendships with mutual respect and accountability?