

Week Six: April 1, 2020 – April 7, 2020



HIS DISCIPLERS

I am helping someone and someone is helping me to be a reproducing follower of Jesus.

The caption for this saying is, His Disciplers. It is not a typo that there is an ‘r’ in the word. This is to draw attention to the fact that as Jesus’ disciples we are to make disciples.

Jesus left his followers with the great commandment to go and make disciples. That command had no limit of place as it was to make disciples of all nations and it had no limit of time as Jesus promised His presence to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20). If we are followers of Jesus, we have been called to be disciples who make disciples – who make disciples.

To be a discipler, it comes down to the practice of investing ourselves, as followers of Jesus, in helping others walk in this way as well. This week we will be looking at growing in our discipleship and working on changes that might be necessary so that we can truly say, “I am discipling someone and someone is discipling me to be a reproducing disciple.”

One of the disciplines of The Way of Jesus training is the establishment of ‘D’ – cells. That is just short for ‘discipleship – cells.’ Are there two or three others with whom you could meet on a regular basis to encourage one another in your walk of discipleship? See if you can organize a D – cell and grow together in discipleship. For now, that might be a conference call by phone or App.

One of the things that should be obvious as we consider this marker throughout this week is that discipleship is intended to be neither a static nor a solitary thing. We should all be growing in our discipleship and, to the extent of our ability to do so, we should be experiencing that growth with other followers of Jesus.



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Beginning to follow Jesus presents the new disciple a significant departure from the old life. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Truth be told, it is easy to find people who think that discipleship that breaks from the old life is both fanatical and foolish. Yet, Paul spoke to that as well, writing, “The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Today is April 1, April Fool’s Day. While we are not absolutely sure, some believe that the idea of April Fools dates back to 1582 when France switched calendars and instead of the new year beginning April 1 it was moved to January 1. There were some who were ignorant of the change and others who clung to the old way of doing things. They were called April fools. As this applies to discipleship, we should be aware that it is really foolish to cling to the old way of life when the new has come.

Read and reflect on the following passages. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Matthew 22:23-33

Let’s Get Personal:

Did your life change significantly when you became a disciple of Jesus? Did you experience some hassle from friends when you started to put off the old and but on the new life? What would you say to someone that you are discipling if they would be experiencing that now?

My Reflections

LISTEN – What did God say to me?

TRUST – What do I have to believe in order to act on this?

OBEY – What are some ways that I should act on this?



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Most often someone who comes to trust in Jesus has had opportunity to observe someone they trust who practices a living faith (trust) in Jesus and been influenced by them. This is not in any way to suggest that the work of the Holy Spirit is not needed but to point out that the Holy Spirit typically uses people in gospel proclamation and disciple-making. The point of being this kind of influencer is not to simply be a communicator of correct information but to be a model of a life that is on the way of Jesus.

A distinction has often been made between evangelism and discipleship but that distinction is now widely questioned as the effectiveness of building a relationship with people before gospel presentation is proven. This does not mean that there is no place for 'crusade' evangelism or street evangelism that shares the gospel message with strangers, but it suggests where we would be most effective in investing our time in order to introduce people to Jesus.

Psalm 31:9-16;

Philippians 1:1-11

Let's Get Personal:

Do you have any disciple-making relationships? Give thought to people that God used in your life as an exercise throughout this week. Don't be afraid to name names. Think about how they helped you to become more like Jesus. Take time to make some contact (if you can) with those disciple-makers and thank them for their influence.

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Parenting children and making disciples are akin to one another in so far as both utilize personal influence to impact another life. Both also require the modelling of attitudes, actions, and behaviours. For the Christian parent, raising children should be thought of as disciple-making.

A discipleship mentality in our home can radically change our family life. One thing that would definitely change is our understanding of discipline. Rather than being punishment, discipline should be regarded as the practice of guiding the choices of our children. Sometimes that requires that they feel the consequences of stepping out of line. Time out is a good response for anti-social behaviours.

What do you think God would like to accomplish in us as the whole world seems to have been sent to our rooms?

Read and reflect on the following passage. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Philippians 1:21-31

Let's Get Personal:

Having children helps you appreciate the affect your early training had on you as you find yourself sounding a lot like your own parents in the instruction you give your children. Is that a good thing or a bad thing for you? Who were people who are helping you be a follower of Jesus today? What good things do they teach you? What are some things that you see in them that you think you should not emulate?

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Who are you intentionally discipling who is not a follower of Jesus yet?

1. If you don't have someone? Ask the Spirit of Jesus to put someone on your heart and mind. – Listen to God as He prompts you.
2. Pray for them.
3. Bless them.
4. Model Saying #3 (I am becoming like Jesus in my attitudes, behaviours, and character).
5. Love them.
6. Be ready and be patient.
7. Ask for the Lord's help.
8. Include them in your family/your life/your journey. Invite them to settings where others who love Jesus will include them too.
9. Be a friend.

Read and reflect on the following passage. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Mark 10:32-34

Let's Get Personal:

The demands of our schedule can be a great obstacle to overcome in an attempt to be a discipler. However, the first steps of disciple-making might not mean adding any more people to your circle of influence than those that are already there. Think of how you could influence those who are already around you to be followers of Jesus.

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In the Gospels we can find that there were different levels of discipleship used to describe different people. In thinking of Jesus' disciples our first thoughts might go to the twelve. Yet, within that group we are told that there are three who were invited to join Jesus on the mount of transfiguration and to go further with Him in the garden of Gethsemane. Another within that group of twelve (Judas) betrayed Jesus. In another situation we encounter seventy disciples whom Jesus sent out in twos. In another instance we are told there were more than five thousand who had followed Jesus to hear Him teach. We could ask ourselves which circle we would see ourselves in.

Yesterday was Palm Sunday, the observance of the Triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. There is a considerable contrast between the number of those who greeted him on that occasion and those who stood with him less than one week later. This is something to ponder as we give thought to what it means to be a disciple.

Read and reflect on the following passages. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Psalm 36:5-11; Isaiah 42:1-9; John 12:1-11; Hebrews 9:11-15

Let's Get Personal:

As followers of Jesus we are not alone. We live out our discipleship in the presence of other followers of Jesus. Have you ever thought how your particular gifts and abilities can be used to encourage others as they follow Jesus? How does the faithfulness of others help you in your discipleship?

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Just as parents learn as they go, so do disciplers. As someone once said, the problem with parenting is that by the time we are experienced we are done. In the case of disciple-making we should never consider ourselves 'done' so we have lots of time to practice.

Parents sometimes watch parenting videos or take parenting courses to learn to be better parents because we love our children. Even though we have many resources for parents included in our RightNow Media subscription, videos or classes in parenting are no substitute for actually parenting. Likewise, attending discipleship classes is no substitute for discipling. So, instead of worrying that you have not had the proper training to make disciples, just be a disciple-maker. If you are worried that you will make mistakes, remember you will only get better by practice.

Read and reflect on the following passages. You can record your reflections on the next page.

Psalms 71:1-14; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 12:20-36; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Let's Get Personal:

While there are other indicators of maturity, reproduction is certainly a major one. Is the model of your discipleship being reproduced in someone else? A mature disciple can also be greatly helped by others whom they follow. Do you have someone else helping you to be a reproducing follower of Jesus? If you do, spend time with them on a regular basis. If you don't, visit someone (it might be on the phone) to get to know them better.

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