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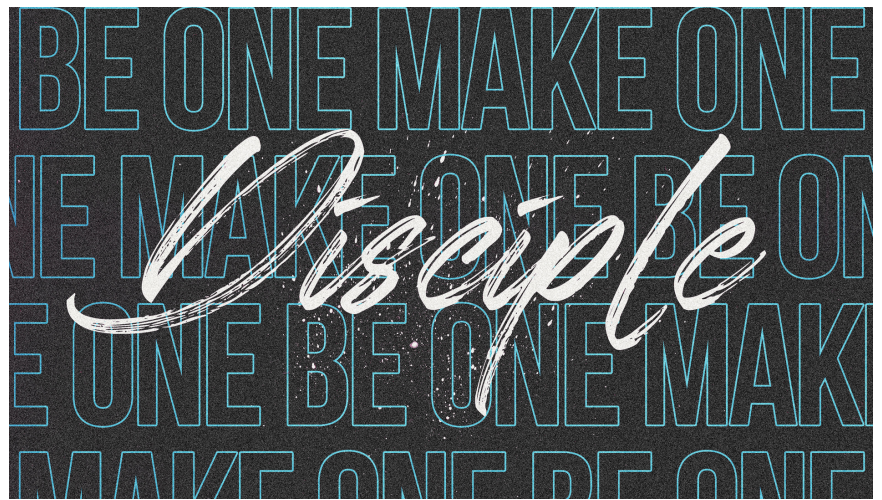
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Westminster Larger Catechism

Question & Answer 91

Q: What is the duty which God requires of man?

A: The duty of which God requires of man is obedience to His revealed will.



Opening Questions

Have you ever stopped for directions while being lost?

If you have, describe that experience to the group?

If you haven't, why have you not? Because of never being lost? Embarrassment? Pride? Never going somewhere new?

What does receiving directions, whether from a GPS or another person, teach us about traveling?

Eugene Peterson wrote "Everyone who travels the road of faith requires assistance from time to time."

Sit with that statement for just a moment.

Is that a true statement? Why or why not?

How is Jesus helping you in this season?

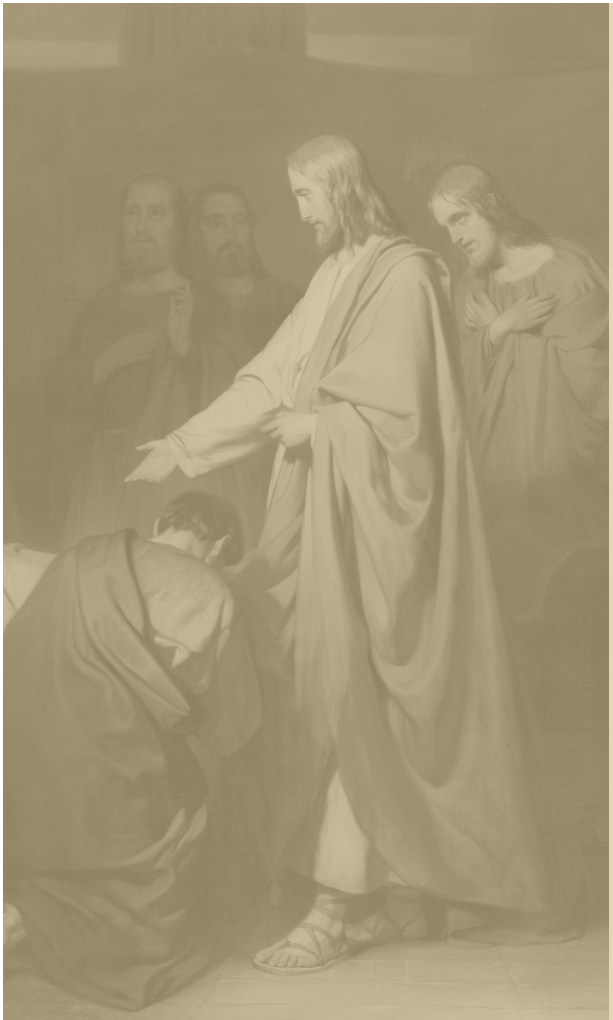
Who has helped you on your road of faith?

Who are you currently helping?

Why is it a good thing that everyone needs assistance?

Take a moment to pray for all of the help that the group gives and receives.

The Apostle Mark & His Discipleship



Mark helps the reader of his gospel see a portrait of Jesus that exhibits a down to earth view of Jesus and His ministry. Yes, there are exciting stories that occur during the Gospel of Mark, but it is also a telling of Jesus' life and work with the utmost simplicity.

It is by simplicity that Mark calls people, especially those that already feel familiar with Jesus, to be challenged by Jesus' message and ministry. Too often those of us within the Church can feel like we are so familiar with Jesus' words that we need "more meat" from the sermons, Bible study lessons, and conversations we have about Jesus. We can easily reduce Jesus to a stereotype or a preconceived figure because we have become so familiar with Jesus. But through his Gospel, Mark calls the reader to make mental and spiritual adjustments to see Jesus anew, and to know there is always meat.

Biblical love is always others-centric. Oftentimes our culture defines love as a way to be self-giving or self-promoting. Love, the world tells us, is what makes us feel good or what makes us feel all warm and fuzzy inside. But the problem with that definition is that it hinges on a feeling that is always moving, always changing, and always fuzzy in articulation. But the love that is described in the Bible is about what is best for others. Love should be enacted for the sake of others.

God is love. God is loving and acts for the sake of others; the emotional, physical, relational, and spiritual aspects of life are all ultimately taken care of in the love of God. Jesus came not to be served but to serve. And that is why Mark's Gospel is so important. Mark portrays Jesus' life as one of servanthood, but he also shows that the life of the disciple is one of servanthood as well.

"By comprehending the essence of Jesus' ministry as servanthood, the disciples will comprehend the essence of discipleship as servanthood, including their motivation, position, ambition, expectations, and example (note the crucial placement of servanthood passages, 9:33-37 and 10:35-45, within the larger discipleship section, 8:27-10:45)."

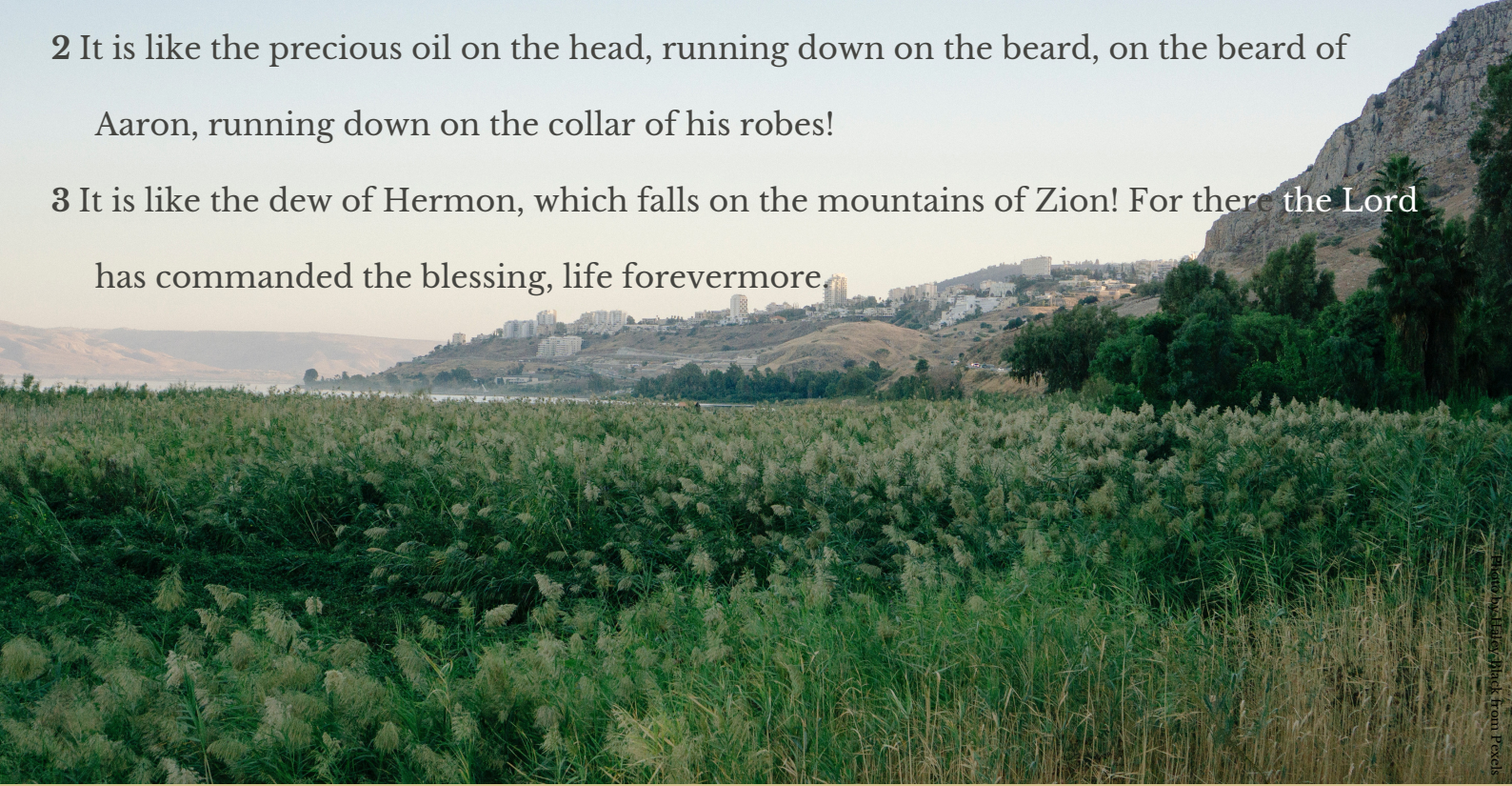
Adapted from *Following the Master* by Michael J Wilkens

Psalm 133

1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.



Discussion

Utilize [BlueLetterBible.org](https://www.BlueLetterBible.org) for the use of commentary for this psalm. If you have a Study Bible, you may consider using that as well. For this psalm, look to the context and how it applied to Israel and how it applies to the Christian.

1. In this psalm we see from the very beginning the importance of unity within a connected community (brotherhood). How might the original Israelites have viewed this psalm as it calls for unity?
2. One Christian leader remarked regarding this psalm -- "The oil was poured on Aaron's head and flowed downward, from the top of the head, to the beard, to the collar, and beyond. This downward movement demonstrates that the source of unity is above and beyond the priesthood—it is extrinsic to them. In the same way that oil was poured onto Aaron by someone else, unity was poured onto the people by God. In the same way that oil spread from Aaron's head to his beard to his clothing, unity was to flow from God to the priest to the people. The oil, after all, would drip onto the breastplate which bore a stone for each of the twelve tribes. Unity was God's gift to his people given through the mediation of the High Priest. It was an objective reality they needed to understand, enact, and foster." How does this explanation help you seek to be unified, even if you are discipling or are being disciplined by someone you don't always agree with?
3. Explain a time when you had an older or more mature Christian help you see the need for unity? What would have happened if the older/more mature Christian had not called you to unity?
4. How is unity an important concept for disciples of Jesus? How have you encouraged or modeled unity within the body of Christ?

John 8:31-38

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

Discussion

Utilize [BlueLetterBible.org](https://www.BlueLetterBible.org) for commentary for this passage. In this section, consider not only the immediate implication for those with Jesus but also how it informs and empowers our discipleship today.

1. What does it mean to "abide in my word"?
2. What does it mean that those who abide in Jesus' words are truly His disciples? Is there such a thing as a true disciple and a false disciple? Where have you seen false disciples, whether in the Church or in other places?
3. The Jews in this passage seem to have been confused by Jesus' words. They didn't understand how they could be captive to anything or anyone. Why do you believe they had a hard time understanding Jesus' statement?
4. How is it that we are able to know and understand truth? Why do you answer that way? Can you argue your position from Scripture?
5. How is a person a slave to sin? Would you say that you are a slave to sin? Why or why not?
6. In your discipling relationship(s), how are you helping teach others that they need freedom in Christ so that they can no longer be a slave to their sin?
7. Recall a time that you were confronted with your sin by another believer. How has that left a lasting impact (positive or negative)? How are you helping others see their sin in a loving and gracious way? Or do you not call others' sin out to them? Is it loving to call out their sin or not?

Pastor Kevin's Discipleship Philosophy

Kevin Boyd | Lead Pastor

1) How do you define “discipleship”?

Discipleship is God’s primary method for welcoming people into His Kingdom to share in His abundant life, to be formed to His likeness, and to enjoy Him forever. Christ’s call for any person to salvation includes His call to disciple-making. In other words, trusting Jesus means following Jesus in His word and His ways, and that necessarily includes participation in making more disciples. Every Christian is to join with Jesus in making disciples by giving themselves to devoted relationships with others, with the explicit purpose, to help others to know Jesus and grow in Christlikeness in both word and deed.

2) Briefly describe how and/or who you were disciplined by?

My parents were my first “disciplers.” I saw their own love for the Bible and their own dependence on prayer demonstrated daily. Their true affection for Jesus marked their personal integrity and their convictions in raising me. I have also been the beneficiary of a handful of faithful friends who gave of themselves to help me know Jesus and grow in His ways. My youth Pastor, Dennis Perry, showed deep commitment and care for my life. He encouraged me, gave me opportunity to “try” on my faith, and called me up when I was acting in self-interest. Friends like Steele, Greg, Chris, Shawn, Darren, and Chad were key running-mates in helping my faith-life to grow. They were all on-purpose, “iron sharpening iron” kind of friends. Jerry, Dennis, and David have all had a massive impact in helping me to understand my place as a minister and a leader of the church. They are people who the Lord has used to move me outside of comfort zones and think outside of the box. More than any though, Lindsey has helped my faith to grow. She desires and expects me to grow in faith, wisdom, and love. In her modeling this from her own life, her prayers for me, her challenges to me, and her love for me, I continue to pursue the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14).

3) Briefly describe how you make disciples in your area of ministry.

Discipleship is something that is “caught AND taught.” In other words, it is “incidental” and “intentional.” In a general sense, it’s my hope that every pastoral counseling or prayer opportunity I have with a person, every ministry meeting I lead, every sermon or small group lesson I offer, and every casual interaction I have with the church will be used by the Holy Spirit to make disciples. For that to happen, it takes, prayer, faith, personal connection with others, and a personal commitment to my own spiritual growth. Even more specifically, I have chosen a few individuals in my life with whom I’ve entered into a more formal discipling relationship. With these, my goal is to walk deeply and personally with them through everything they are facing as Christians, with a biblical worldview, and to help them grow in greater spiritual awareness of themselves, and in their opportunity as disciple-makers.