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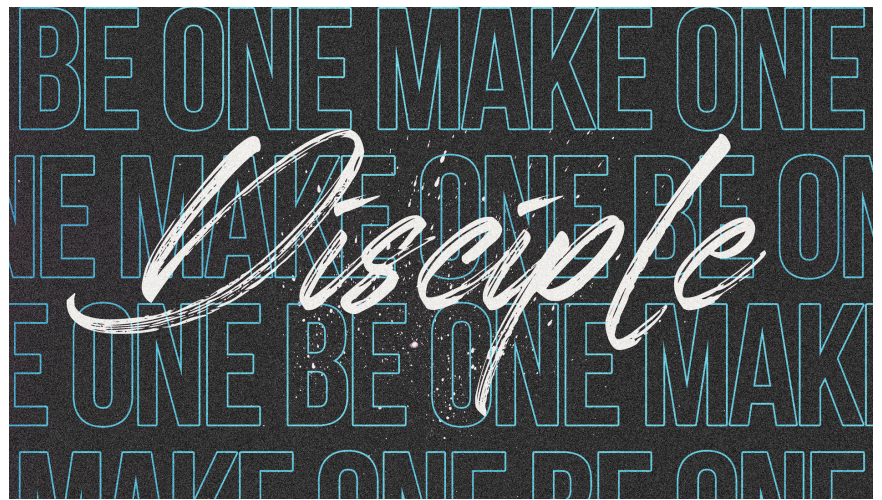
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Question & Answer 91

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.

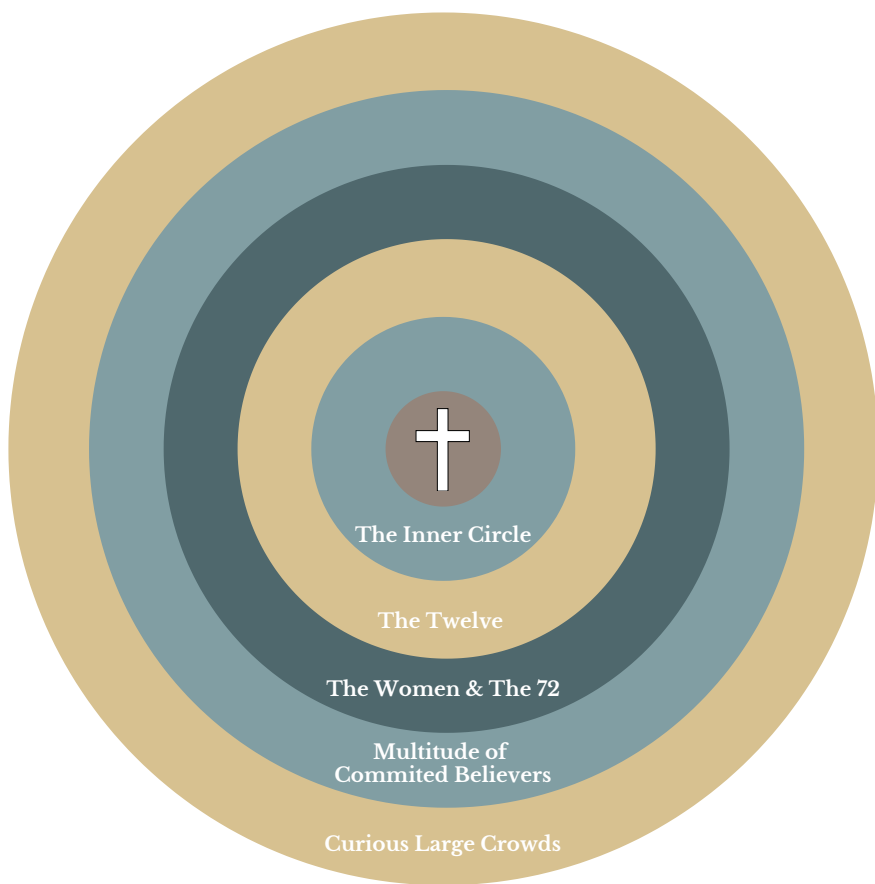
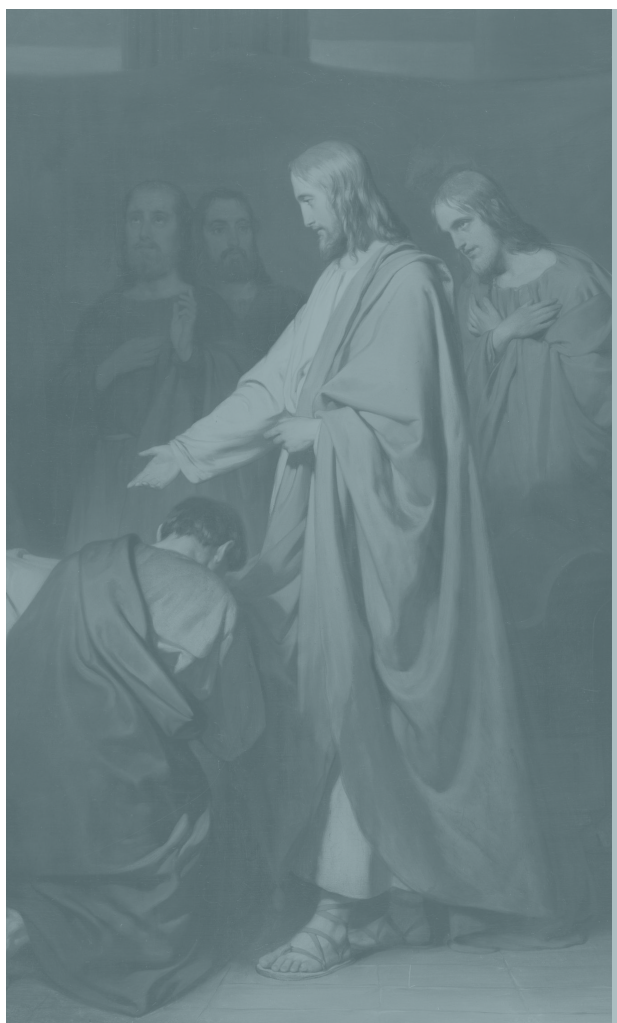


Opening Questions

Think back to being a kid. If you were anything like me, your hands would be full of stuff that you wanted even if you couldn't afford it all. Maybe your mom told you that you could only have one thing, not all six things in your hands.

- Tell the group of a time where you had to count the cost of what you got and what you left behind.
- How did you go through the process of determining what you kept and what you let go?
- Were you ever disappointed by the thing that you got and pined for the thing that you left behind?
- When it comes to the Christian life, are there things that you desire but you have been told that you are to leave "it" behind?
- Have you ever been disappointed by the Christian life? If so, what has that felt and looked like?
- Have you found freedom and joy in leaving something behind?

The Apostle Luke & His Discipleship



One of the unique contributions of Luke, the beloved physician that wrote a Gospel account, is that he also wrote a second book, which we call The Acts of the Apostles. Because we have a two volume set of Dr. Luke's words, we are able to trace his view of discipleship in a more comprehensive way than the other writers of the Gospel accounts. This allows the reader to recognize that Luke understood that a long path lies beyond one's initial commitment to Jesus, a path that will be marked by Spirit-filled victory and may also include hardship such as loss, persecution, or martyrdom.

Luke's description includes varying group size of disciples that follow Jesus. There were curious large crowds that followed Jesus all the way to a deep intimate inner circle of four men (see graphic above). Those that truly follow Christ will find themselves living out Jesus' illustration that says one must enter through the gate of salvation (faith in Jesus) and will then be walking the path of discipleship (Luke 13:22-30).

One of the common ways that Luke describes discipleship is by calling it "The Way". Dr. Luke highlights the fact that when disciples are committed to Jesus and walk on "The Way", it will be a costly; discipleship to Jesus has a personalized cost that each individual must count to follow Him.

Adapted from *Following the Master* by Michael J Wilkens

Luke 9:18-27

18 Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

19 And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.”

20 Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

21 And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,

22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Discussion

Utilize 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 is the setting for Jesus' call to discipleship?
2. What does it mean to deny self?
3. Jesus talks about those who seek to save their own life, yet lose it. In what ways do you see people trying to save their own life?
4. In what ways have you attempted to save your life?
5. Why does losing your life for Jesus actually save it? Where do we see this truth in Scripture?
6. How would you speak to someone who is seeking to save their own life?

Luke 5:1-11

1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Discussion

Utilize 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. Describe the setting as a backdrop for this dramatic scene?
2. What was Jesus trying to demonstrate by saying "*Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.*"?
3. What was Peter's response in verse 8? Why did he respond this way?
4. What does it mean that the disciples will be "catching men"?
5. What things did these men leave behind (v. 11)? (*i.e. security, jobs, way of life, et cetera*)
6. What, if anything, have you left behind for the sake of following Jesus? Is there something that you believe God is calling you to leave behind right now?
8. How can this group help encourage, equip, or challenge you to move toward Jesus and leave behind something that is getting in the way of a more fruitful relationship?
9. What can you practically do in this next week as a first step to "catch" a person for Jesus? In what ways (if at all) have you been praying for this opportunity over the last several weeks or months? Will you begin praying for opportunities to be catchers of men?
10. Do today's passages convict, challenge, or comfort you? If so, why?

Pastor Dustin's Discipleship Philosophy

Dustin Chappell | Creative Arts Pastor

1) How do you define “discipleship”?

Discipleship is the process in which one believer walks alongside another to encourage and establish patterns of spiritual discipline within the other that will equip them to more closely resemble Jesus. Rooted in a mutual affection towards Christ, it's a joint pursuit through which both believers spur one another towards love and good (Heb 10:24), ultimately invite others to experience and engage the process for themselves.

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

I've been extremely blessed to experience discipleship alongside many, and from a young age. The first is my dad, who walked with me through Scripture from a very young age and constantly called me into a pattern of living that looked less like my own inclination and more like the inspired example of Jesus. I grew up seeing him rise early to read Scripture and pray on his own, then again before bed with my sister and me. He spent time weekly in accountability with others and serving within the church. I was fortunate to experience so much of the Jesus I read about in Scripture through the sacrificial love of my father. The second was my former student pastor, Chris Trent. Chris invested a great deal of time into discipling me after I graduated and first began pursuing God's call into vocational ministry. More than a mentor, he challenged me to dive into God's Word and live up to the standard to which it called me. He taught me what it looked like to engage spiritual disciplines like fasting, prayer, stewardship, meditation, and journaling and to exercise those on a regular basis. Most importantly, he modeled what it looked like to lead and care for others from a heart that loved like Jesus. He pushed me to lean into relationships and love even when it was difficult, never allowing me to settle for what was easy but spurring me towards the growth he knew I needed.

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

For a long time the vision God has given me in Worship Ministry has been rather simple. It's our job as a team to facilitate environments that make it easy for people to experience Jesus. I believe in the transformational power of the presence of God so our role is far less about preparing the meal than it is about setting the table and helping people understand how to properly consume it. Beyond that, I believe it's important for us to help people understand that the 'meal', which is the presence of God, is something that's accessible to everyone everywhere, not exclusively within the walls of our church on Sunday mornings. So, going back to the vision God has given me for our team, it's my desire not just to facilitate environments for people to experience Jesus, but to equip and prepare them to facilitate some of those environments for themselves (and even with others) as well.