

Jesus – the Disciple Maker John 1:35-51

We are in the Gospel of John looking to discover how “the love of Jesus is transforming lives” – individually, in families, communities, & the world!

We first looked at answering the question, “Who is Jesus?” & we discovered that He is the Creator, the Light of the World, & the source of all life. (1:2-3)

We also learned that He is both fully human and fully divine – He is the God-Man, the exact image of the Father in human form. (1:14-18)

We also discovered the gospel truth that “whoever receives Him & believes in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...” (1:12-13)

And there is so much more to learn about “who” this Jesus is! Last week we looked at many of His attributes, names, & titles. But it is the title, “Lamb of God”, that is the gateway attribute to all that Jesus is for us! (1:29)

Today, let’s turn our attention to encounters that Jesus had, with real life human beings, that brought about real transformation into their lives! And may we dare to believe that He can do the same in our lives today as well!

All the rest of the sermons in this series will be titled, “Jesus the...” Each week we will discover another aspect of His identity that transforms people’s lives!

Today’s sermon title is “Jesus – the Disciple Maker!” After Jesus’ baptism, He immediately has some interaction with some of His future disciples!

Every Jewish Rabbi had disciples, those who literally sat at their feet & learned from them. The best Rabbi’s took on the most promising students.

Jesus, who would be the best Rabbi/teacher in all of history, chose disciples differently! Just consider how John speaks of Jesus as a disciple maker!

The first two disciples of Jesus were not sought out by Jesus, but were received by Him (1:35-39). Jesus didn’t take the best, He took the willing!

Andrew was willing to pursue Jesus b/c of who John the Baptist declared Jesus to be! Remember, John was a billboard, pointing people to Jesus!

Doesn’t everyone’s story, who is a follower of Jesus, start with someone else telling them about who Jesus truly is? Romans 10:17

Andrew, and the other disciple not named, were willing to pursue Jesus as their new Rabbi because John the Baptist told them about His true identity!

We see the same happen with Simon Peter. He began following Jesus after Andrew, his brother, told him that he had found the Messiah! (1:40-41)

Philip also follows the pattern, after being called by Jesus, and goes and tells Nathanael, and Nathanael begins following Jesus as well.

There are several key observations that come from this one text about the people who become disciples of Jesus (both back then, and now):

- Disciples of Jesus are more willing than qualified!
- Even doubters (Nathanael) are welcome to be disciples of Jesus! (vs. 46)
- Disciples of Jesus, make other disciples of Jesus!

But that’s not all, here are 8 more observations about true D.I.S.C.I.P.L.E.S:

D – Decision – Being a disciple of Jesus is a decision every person must make for themselves! And it is a daily one! Examples: Andrew, John & Peter

I – Inquiry – Being a disciple of Jesus doesn’t mean you have all the answers. It means asking questions & pursuing answers (Nathanael)! Disciples are learners.

S – Sacrifice – There is a cost to following Jesus, but the rewards far outweigh the cost! (vs. 51) The disciples left their catch, but caught so much more.

C – Connecting with Jesus – Being a disciple of Jesus is not just about information (truth), it’s about a relationship! Jesus offers us both!

I – Inviting others – Just as Jesus invites His disciples into a relationship with Himself, we get to invite others into a relationship with Jesus as well!

P – Purpose – A life following Jesus is a life filled with purpose; b/c Jesus is all about doing a work of redemption! What greater purpose is there?

L – Life – Jesus not only offers His disciples a new purpose, He offers them Himself, who is the very source of life – both the physical & the Spiritual!

E – Eternity – Being a disciple of Jesus is not a temporary gig, it is a life-long pursuit that ends in eternal glory with Him in Heaven!

Those early disciples of Jesus had their lives turned upside down by Him! Jesus is still doing the same in the lives of His disciples today! Are you one of them? If you choose this path, your life will never be the same!

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