

St Martins C3 – February 4, 2024

Discipleship Uncovered – Discipleship Explored

Sermon Notes:

We are starting a new series this morning that is going to provide the blueprint for what we are building in St Martins C3 this year.

Our focus as a church is the transforming work of Jesus. We long to see Christ transforming our lives and those around us.

Our purpose in life is found when we know Jesus and follow Him with our lives. This process is called discipleship.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

A disciple is a student of the master, they seek to emulate them in all they teach and do.

To grow at being good students of the master, we need to understand:

A – Where we are going

B – Where we are right now

C – How to get from here to there

Where We Are Going

According to Bryant Myers, God has given us four fundamental relationships. Our relationship with **God, self, others** and the **rest of creation**.

These relationships represent everything Jesus taught. Wholeness in those four relationships is what good discipleship looks like. It is the destination.

Where We Are

Before we begin our journey, we need to look around us and see how far from the destination we are.

To help us do this, we have created a self-assessment survey to help you see where you are on your journey.

Go to www.stmartinsc3.org/events and click on the survey box to take part. Your involvement in this survey will help set the direction for our church this year.

How We Will Get There

This year one of St Martins C3's four strategic aims is to normalise an understanding and pursuit of discipleship. That means we want to understand more about what it means to be a disciple and make it normal for everyone to grow in each of these relationship areas.

Every series we do will relate to one of these relationship areas. Every Sunday we will be talking about growing as disciples. Every connect group we challenge you to be honest with how you are doing and let others help you grow.

Read Matthew 7:24-28

You are invited to grow in Christ this year. It will be hard work at times, but the fruit will be out of this world.

Questions for Connect Groups:

What stood out to you from today's message?

What does this message tell you about God?

What does this message tell you about humans?

What is the purpose of your life?

To what extent are you living out the purpose of your life?

Spend some time reflecting on things you learned from doing the discipleship self-assessment.

What did the survey reveal to you?

Which of the four relationship areas are you strongest in?

How do you see the benefits of that relationship area in your discipleship journey?

Which relationship area do you most need to improve?

What is one way you can improve in that relationship area?

How do you want to grow this year?

What will you do as a result of this message?

Songs from Today:

Your Great Mercy, The National Anthem, Living Hope, Here & Now,
Worthy of It All

Monday Devotion: Disciples Die Daily

Read Luke 9:18-26

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

C S Lewis

We often communicate to people who are interested in becoming a Christian that it is as simple as making a decision, saying a prayer, and filling in a response card. According to Jesus, it is not that simple.

Yes, grace is free. Yes, God will accept any person who calls on His name. But the Christianity found in being a disciple is much more of a change than choosing a new electrical provider.

If you declare Jesus is the Christ, then it should change the way you live your life. The new way of Christ says that nominal Christianity is a contradiction. There is no “casual” in regards to following God. To be a true follower, you have to be all in.

All are welcome to follow Jesus, but Jesus is saying that acceptance into his Kingdom is about more than a confession, it is about a heart change that leads to a life change. It all comes from giving up your way of life and embracing Him. That’s discipleship.

As we challenge you to grow in your discipleship, surrender any selfish attitudes that might prevent you from giving it all to Him.

Pray and commit to following God with everything that you have.

Tuesday Devotion: Disciples Are Like Their Master

Read Matthew 10:7-8; 24-25

We are challenged to give it all to being a disciple of Jesus. But what does it mean to be a disciple?

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends out His disciples with a mission to bring God's Kingdom and lets them know they will face opposition as they do that. He then tells them what it looks like to be a disciple.

Disciples are to be like their teacher.

The term "disciple" is from the word meaning learner or pupil. Being a disciple involves following and learning from a teacher or leader, in this case, Jesus.

The transformation Christ wants to do in us is to make us more like Him. That is why he commanded His followers to teach everything that He taught and to bring the Kingdom of God in word and deed.

As I hold my life up to the life of Jesus, I see the areas in which I am not like Him. Therefore, my job is to devote myself to becoming more like Him.

Pray and ask God to reveal the ways you can be more like Him.

Wednesday Devotion: Disciples Grow

Read Colossians 2:6-7

When I was a young adult, I did the 2:7 Series course created by *Navigators*. They were courses designed to help people grow in their faith and they were based on these verses.

In these verses, the people of Colossae are encouraged to not let their acceptance of Christ be the end of the story, but the beginning. Once they have accepted Him, they are encouraged to grow into God with their roots going deep and their lives built up strong.

Do not be discouraged if you do not see as much growth in your faith as you would like. Even the mightiest tree comes from a small seed and may spend years struggling as a young sapling. None of us are the finished product. Each of us has areas where we could grow.

The important thing is for us to recognise the things that are preventing our growth and the areas we can most easily grow. As you have explored the four relationship areas this week, hopefully, you have seen one or two ways in which you can begin to focus your growth energy. Either down into him or up into the world around you.

Pray and ask for God's grace to help you in the areas you recognise you need to grow. Ask Him to remind you that He accepts you regardless of your failures.

Thursday Devotion: Disciples Love Their Master

Read John 1:35-51; 15:15

When Jesus called his first followers in the book of John, he did more than call them to learn from a teacher or fulfil a mission, He invited them to a relationship.

As you read John 1, see the way Jesus invited the followers into His life and the place where He was saying. He showed He cared about their life, even when they were just sitting under a fig tree.

Being a disciple of Jesus is an invitation to be part of the life of Jesus. We get to see Him up close and personal. We get to be His friends.

There is an old saying that goes: “Show me your friends and I will show you who you will become.” We often take on the character traits of the ones closest to us.

As friends of Jesus, we have an intimate view of who He is and what He is doing in the world. We then have the privilege of reflecting His transforming life as we grow in each of the four relationship areas.

Make Jesus the one who is closest to you. Every day, take the time to get to know Him and choose to be His friend.

Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you as your friend.

Friday Devotion: Disciples Change the World

Read Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

As St Martins C3 it is our vision to see:

Christ transforming our lives

Christ transforming those around us

Our focus is always on Jesus and the work that He is doing in the world. As we submit our lives to Him, we are transformed. We recognise that we have fallen and that we need someone to fix us. That person is Jesus. All the broken parts of our lives can be made new. He wants to work in us and change us from the inside out. We are saved by the work of Jesus on the cross and are in the process of seeing our whole lives redeemed.

That is good news!

But this renewal process isn't just about us. It is about what God wants to do through us as well. We are vehicles to see Christ transforming the world around us. It's our heart to see the people God has placed in our lives, our friends, family, workmates and this St Martins area transformed by Christ.

We want to see people with strong families, strong marriages, and healthy ways of thinking. We want to see relationships restored. We want to see the love of Christ touching every person that God has placed in proximity to us as individuals and as a church in this area.