

disciples, who when he left knew how to make disciples because they knew Jesus. Paul hadn't just told them about Jesus, he'd introduced them to Jesus. The Spirit lived with them. That's why the church didn't die when Paul got kicked out. The Spirit didn't leave, their relationship with Jesus didn't leave. They just had to grow up quickly.

Discipleship is one part of the LORD fulfilling his promise. This week in Ezekiel I read; "And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I

will take away their stony, stubborn hearts and give then a tender responsive heart, so they will be my people and I will be their God." (Ezek. 11:19,20 NLT)

This week as I listen to Jesus, I hear him saying to me; "GO and MAKE DISCIPLES". Tim, don't seek to preserve people or things, go and breathe my life into them that they might follow, that they might be living this dynamic lifestyle of discipleship with me.

Let us pray.

Jesus we hear your call, we want to go and live as your disciples. We want to go and make disciples. Flood our hearts and minds with the Spirit that as we know you intimately so that me can make you known. Open our eye, our minds, our hearts to your idea of discipleship. We want to be living this dynamic, passionate relationship you gave your life for us to share with you. Jesus we want to follow you whole heartedly.

8 September 2019

LISTENING TO GOD

Discipleship



The reading from Jeremiah for today reminded me that my relationship with God starts with Jesus, not with me. What I do needs to flow from Jesus. Jesus moulds me to his shape, not the other way around

That's the image we have today where God is described as the potter and we the clay. The potter shapes the clay, not the other way around. In Jesus, Father has shaped me to be his child; chosen and marked by his love, delight of his life. This speaks to me of discipleship.

As Jesus moulds me I become a

pattern for other people to imitate. As I focus on Jesus and imitate him, other people are able to follow my example living as a reflection of Jesus.

I'm reluctant to say; 'imitate me'. I know that I am all too imperfect and in need of Jesus' grace and mercy. I need Jesus to shape me, to fill me, to lead me, because I know on my own I'll miss the mark.

So my passion is to seek to follow Jesus, sharing all of life with him. To keep my focus on him that I might live faithfully as his disciple. My desire is to listen to Jesus and in the power of

the Spirit seek to walk with him.

I hope in this way we can all be encouragements to each other, as together we seek to walk closely with Jesus, living faithfully as his disciples.

If I claim to be Jesus disciple, what is the obvious inference? That Jesus shapes what I do. I'm trusting him with my life following his lead.

In life I'm constantly faced with a choice; to follow Jesus' lead or not. To trust Jesus with my life choices or to follow someone else. This is lived out daily. Maybe that's why we pray for our

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

daily bread, because daily we are faced with the choice to follow Jesus or not. This is not a one off event but a lifestyle. I trust Jesus with my life, with my living, with my choices. He is the one who shapes me.

the relationship he has with Jesus, daily. Daily looking forward to that great moment when they meet face to face.

That's how relationships work; we can't live them in the past. We live them daily with

a disciple, put a plaque on your wall and then forget about it. Discipleship is a dynamic lifestyle.

Notice what Jesus said about discipleship today; "You cannot be my disciple if you do not carry your own cross and follow me." (Luke 14:27)

Don't hear this as a demand, like you can't come into the movie theatre without a ticket. That's not what Jesus is saying. It's more like, if you want to play football you can't do it from the grandstand, you need to be on the ground, in the team, dressed and ready for action.

So Paul doesn't sit back and think everything is done and dusted, rather; "Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13,14)

You can't live a relationship on past conversations.

each other, with the hope of a wonderful future together. You can't live a relationship on past conversations, you need to be talking daily. Sharing daily. Being open to listening daily. So discipleship is a daily activity, a daily relationship.

Paul isn't resting on his past achievements, but he's seeking to live

That makes discipleship a dynamic way of life. You don't become

I can call myself a footballer all I like, but until I get out of the grandstand and

onto the ground, what am I? Jesus calls us to follow him, to a life of discipleship. He shapes us and the way we live, that's carrying the cross. Our life fits his pattern, the pattern of the cross.

That's listening to Father, so that you can do his will. That's seeing life through Jesus' eyes as he saw life through Father's eyes. To the people at the foot of the cross Jesus looked like a failure, a pretender, they had exposed this fraud. But they were wrong; they didn't have the eyes to see life through Father's eyes.

In the cross Jesus wins the victory. Through the cross Jesus wins forgiveness, eternal

life, a renewed relationship with God based on his love. We now see our heavenly Father who is prepared to sacrifice everything so that we might share life with him, growing to maturity as his child.

Discipleship is a Dynamic Lifestyle.

Taking up the cross is living a life shaped by Jesus. So I don't read Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' as some law I have to follow to be good, but rather as a description of the dynamic lifestyle he's called me to share with him.

The fact that discipleship is a dynamic lifestyle is brought home in the word; 'Follow'. I

can't follow and not move. I can't follow Jesus by seeking to preserve the past not allowing any change. That's almost the opposite; discipleship is dynamic, fluid, following Jesus.

And Jesus' goal is to follow his Father, doing Father's will. That's why for me these words of Jesus are bedrock; "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you!" (John 20:21NIV)

When I look at Paul I see a person who went out and told people about Jesus. In fact you couldn't shut him up. Kick him out of one town and what do you find him doing in the very next town; telling people about Jesus, making