

# Becoming Like Jesus

Leaders Equipping and Training Session #1

# Introduction

- “If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together” — African Proverb
- The monthly LET is designed to be an important platform to build a disciple-making church (DMC)

# Introduction

- Has anyone ever discipled you?
- To disciple someone means to be in a formal relationship with a more mature Christian, who guides you to grow in a step by step process as a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Are you right now discipling anyone else?
- Discipleship is not a program. A “disciple” is one who follows Jesus (literally like the apostles or figuratively as to learn from him) and becomes more like him:
- “The **student** (disciple) is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for **students** (disciples) to be **like their teachers**, and servants like their masters” (Matt 10:24-25)

# Jesus and the Twelve

- Robert Coleman's *The Master Plan of Evangelism* (1964, 2010) shows how Jesus create a worldwide movement and changed the world by discipling twelve men:
  - Selection
  - Association
  - Consecration
  - Impartation
  - Demonstration
  - Delegation
  - Supervision
  - Reproduction

# Key Characteristics of a Christian Disciple

- Becoming like Jesus demands growth in all areas of our lives
- John reflects on his experience of following Jesus with three distinguishing marks of discipleship:
- **Abides in Jesus' word:** <sup>31</sup> “To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, **you are really my disciples**. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (Jn 8:31-32)
- **Loves the brethren:** <sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that **you are my disciples**, if you love one another” (Jn 13:34)
- **Bears fruit:** <sup>8</sup> “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to **be my disciples**” (Jn 15:8)

## John Stott: *The Radical Disciple* (2014)

- In his final publication, John Stott describes the Christian disciple by exploring:
  - The biblical basis for the call to Christlikeness
  - The NT characteristics of Christlikeness

# The Call to Christlikeness

- **Past tense:** “For those God foreknew he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters” (Rom 8:29)
- **Present tense:** “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are **being transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Cor 3:18)
- **Future tense:** “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we **shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is” (1 Jn 3:2)
- Christian discipleship is both a *point* and a *process* in which people follow Christ and become more like him

# Like Him in His Incarnation

- **Humility and dying to self** are key spiritual qualities of a disciple
- <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, **have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:** <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Phil 2:5-8; cf. Gal 2:20)



## Like Him in His Service

- Disciples are to be like Jesus in his **sacrificial service**
- “So he got up from the meal, took off his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He poured water into a basin and washed his disciples’ feet. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place, and said, Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set an example **that you should do as I have done for you**” (Jn 13:4-17)
- Notice the words: “that you should do as I have done for you”

# Like Him in His Love

- We are to be **like Christ in his love**
- <sup>1</sup> “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and **walk in the way of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph 5:1-2)
- Walk in love refers to the command that all our behaviors should be characterized by love
- Why? Because Jesus first loved us by giving himself to us

# Like Him in His Patient Endurance

- Due to our Christian witness, we are to be like Jesus in **his patient endurance** when we are persecuted for the gospel
- <sup>20</sup> “But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, **that you should follow in his steps**” (1 Pt 2:20-21)

## Like Him in His Mission

- We need to be like Christ and **committed to his mission**
- “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you’” (Jn 20:21)
- “As you sent me into the world, I have **sent them into the world**” (Jn 17:18)
- The key words are “sent them into the world.”
- That means we are enter into other people’s worlds by incarnation evangelism. All authentic mission is incarnational mission

## A Disciple Is...

- Regenerated or born again (Jn 3:5)
- A new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- One who follows Jesus and walks by the power of the Spirit (Gal 5:25)
- One who abides in Jesus (Jn 15:4)
- Dead to sin, self, and alive to Christ (Rom 6:6-14)
- United with Christ in a personal relationship (Rom 6)
- One who has a change in life direction (1 Jn 3:4; 8-9; cf. 2 Cor 5:17)

# Conclusion

- Becoming more like Christ involves the whole person—being (character), knowing (Bible), and doing (service)
- Suffering is part of God's process of making us like Christ (Rom 8:28-29)
- Christian transformation is possible because God has given us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us to change us from within
- The effectiveness of evangelism depends to a large extent whether we look like Christ or not

# Discussion Questions

- Do you sense a disconnect between God's purpose for your life and your own agenda in life?
- What is the most difficult part of Christian discipleship for you?
- What decision will you resolve to make in growing to become more like Christ?

## Reading Resources

- Michael J Wilkins, *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992)
- Scot McKnight, *Turning to Jesus* (Louisville: WJK, 2002)
- Robert E. Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Revell, 2010)
- John Stott, *The Radical Disciple* (England: IVP, 2010)