

Saturate

Lesson 2 “The Process of Discipleship”

I. Introduction - Last week we began a series on the church vision called “Saturate.” The goal of the series is for all of us to learn God’s plan for how He wants to saturate the Triad with Jesus.

A. The plan is to make disciples (**devoted followers** of Jesus.)

1. Devotion is deeper than commitment. Commitment is doing what is required, while devotion is a transformation of the heart where all we want to do is what God wants us to do. It’s the difference between law and grace.
2. We saw examples of that in the scripture: Samaritan woman and Shulamite.

B. The other main point about discipleship I didn’t make last week is Jesus wants to duplicate or replicate Himself in us. Discipleship goes beyond mere head knowledge to replication.

1. What would the world be like if we had a million little Jesus’s on the planet?
2. Part of what God is telling me to do is to replicate myself in others. **1 Corinthians 11:1**. Part of that is knowledge, but the bigger part of that is selling out every part of our life to the gospel.
3. This is why we encourage everyone to get involved in a team or a group. We are beginning to work some of the principles God is showing us down into our leaders and groups so we can get Jesus’s heart in folks.

II. The Process of Discipleship - Last week I said the *Song of Solomon* is a discipleship manual wrapped up in a love story. Today we are going to unpack the process of discipleship in this story.

Part of this is some of the things Pastor Max Cornell shared here last year. I had him teach it to you guys even though I had access to his notes because he had a greater revelation of these truths than I did. Over the last 6 months I’ve studied the *Song of Solomon* and now I have this revelation for myself so I can teach it. This is what the discipleship process looks like. Max had it in his heart and now he got it in my heart. This is also why it is important we have relationships in the body of Christ. Much of our discipleship comes through relationship.

A. Foundational Scriptures - **Ephesians 5:25-27** and **Revelation 19:6-7**. A part of our responsibility as believers is to make ourselves ready for our wedding day (the return of the Lord). This is maturing in the Lord happens through a process we call discipleship.

B. Overview of *Song of Solomon*

1. **Song 1-2:7**: Initial revelation of Jesus as the Good shepherd and the cry for intimacy and fellowship. The bride's blown away by how amazing Jesus is and that He would take interest in us (initial salvation experience)
2. **Song 2:8-17**: 2nd revelation of Jesus as the Man of Authority inviting us to join Him. **After we spend time with Jesus and are whole, we will eventually hear a voice inviting us higher (to do more).**
 - a. Bride doesn't respond immediately. She's not ready to step out by faith. ex: tithing, person from last week.
3. **Song 3:1-11**: 1st crisis (apparent withdrawal) 3rd Revelation of Jesus as King.
 - a. 1st thing we must understand is Jesus never leaves us nor forsakes us. We cannot mature if we think He is inconsistent as there will be nothing to put our faith in.
 - b. How does Jesus respond to her immaturity/apparent lack of faith? **Song of Solomon 3:6-7** Reveals Himself as King sitting in a bridal cart surrounded by 60 valiant warriors. He's revealing she was invited to come up there and sit with Him. **Jesus is showing us when we fail, what we need is a greater revelation of who He is and who we are. Must see ourself on the bridal cart next to Jesus surrounded by angels.**
4. **Song 4:1-5:1**: 2nd invitation to the life of faith.
 - a. Jesus begins describing the bride's beauty/revealing her identity. These are symbolic statements of who we are in Christ. These include we are His inheritance, we are redeemed, we know the scripture.
 - b. This time she responds in faith. **Song 4:6** picture of sitting in heavenly places. **We need to stay there until the shadows flee.**
5. **Song 5:2-6:3**: 2nd crisis (persecution and apparent withdrawal), Shulamite responds in faith.
 - a. Jesus knocks out the door of the bride's heart and she doesn't respond immediately. When she does respond it appear He is gone. This has happened to all of us where we are slow to respond and we no longer sense the presence or favor of God.
 - b. The bride is then beaten by the watchmen of the city (persecution) and the daughters of Jerusalem ask, what makes your beloved so great? This is a picture of people saying, "What makes Jesus better than Buddha or Muhammed, etc.
 - c. The turning point in the **Song is her response of faith. Song 5:10-6:2.** She begins to declare His beauty, glory, and magnificence in the midst of not being able to sense Him. **Maturity walks by faith and not sight.**
 - d. She then says, "I know where He is. He's in my heart (garden). This is true for each of us even when we cannot sense the presence of Jesus.
6. **Song 6:4-7:9**: Jesus's response to faith is to begin to affirm the bride in her identity again. (awesome as an army with banners - victorious, complete in Christ, faithful, beautiful, rooted in God, full of harvest, etc.) We also see in **Song**

7:8-9 her breasts are like clusters. **The idea is she is full of so much milk (the word of God) she is feeding others - maturity.**

7. **Song 7:10-13** She fully recognizes His love for her and we see her heart is transformed.

a. **Song 7:11-12** His heart became her heart.

8. **Song 7:14-8:14** Culmination of love and seal of bridal passion. Key verse - **Song 8:6 SEAL ME WITH YOUR LOVE OH GOD. SEAL MY HEART AND MY ARM (ACTIONS).**

III. Conclusion - The **Song of Solomon** reveals discipleship in a new way. This is a relationship of intimate passion that causes us to bear fruit by grace not striving. The key is understanding Jesus's patience with us and asking for fresh revelations of Him when we fail or get stuck in some way. **We also must remember maturity/discipleship is a process, not an event!**

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer from **Song of Solomon 8:6**