

Fishers of Men: Lessons on Discipleship  
Lesson 1 “Why Be a Disciple?”

I. Introduction - We just finished a 4 week series called “Saturate” where we talked about how to fulfill the vision of Grace Life Church.

A. The way we fulfill the vision is by making disciples (devoted followers) of Jesus. The example we used was the story of the Samaritan woman.

1. Jesus replicated Himself in her through a divine encounter after telling her he brought water that would cause her to never thirst again. She was so changed on a heart level that she then began to do what He modeled (evangelism without having to be told to do so) and brought many to Jesus.
2. The town of Sychar was saturated. Saturation occurred through replication.

B. Today we are going to start a new series on discipleship called “Fishers of Men” where we talk practically about how to make disciples.

1. We are going to look at the relational side of things including how to pick a mentor/disciple, what that relationship should look like, how to develop people in the things of God, etc.
2. We are beginning to implement these principles in all of our teams church-wide as well as with our Life Groups. ex: worship and tech teams have had meetings, if you serve in other teams your leaders will be meeting with you to go over some things so we can better put Jesus’s heart in you and help you develop both individually and a team member so we can saturate the Triad with Jesus! If you aren’t serving in any area, I’d highly encourage you to get involved.

II. Why Be A Disciple?

A. Andrew Wommack Quote - if you evangelized 1,000 people per year for fifteen years, you would end up with 15,000 new believers. If you led 1 person to the Lord every six months and spent the next six months discipling that person so they could reproduce themselves, after one year, there would only be 2 disciples. After 16 1/2 years, however, if each continued to reproduce themselves everyone on the planet would be saved.

B. While I think this is a very valid reason to become a devoted follower of Jesus, I who makes more disciples, it isn’t personal enough.

Robin Williams quote from “Good Will Hunting” - “So if I asked you about art, you'd probably give me the skinny on every art book ever written. Michelangelo, you know a lot about him. Life's work, political aspirations, him and the pope, the whole works, right? But I'll bet you can't tell me what it smells like in the Sistine Chapel. You've never

actually stood there and looked up at that beautiful ceiling; seen that. If I ask you about women, you'd probably give me a syllabus about your personal favorites. But you can't tell me what it feels like to wake up next to a woman and feel truly happy. If I ask you about love, you'd probably quote me a sonnet. But you've never looked at a woman and been totally vulnerable. Known someone that could level you with her eyes, feeling like God put an angel on earth just for you. Who could rescue you from the depths of hell.

C. **John 6:66-68** Many of His disciples left Jesus right after He said, *“unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you.”* Jesus then makes one of the most courageous statements in all of the Bible and asks the others if they want to leave too.

1. Peter's response is compelling. He said, “We can't leave because when you speak we come alive on the inside. We find our reason for being.” The word for life, *zoe*, means the God kind of life. **Life is in His voice! John 6:63**
2. **The main reason to be a devoted follower of Jesus is not the Great Commission and it's not to make the world a better place. Those are just ancillary benefits. The reason is when He speaks we come alive!**

D. All this leads to an important question. Why did some disciples leave, while Peter and the 12 stayed? Did they not come alive when Jesus spoke? Let's take a look at why there were two different responses. I believe the reason I'm going to show you is why we see two different responses amongst Christians today.

1. **John 6:1-15** Jesus multiplied the loaves and the fishes at Bethsaida and the crowd wanted to make him king. **John 6:14-15.**
  - a. Something sparked on the inside of those in the crowd, which is why they wanted to make Jesus king. The reason they didn't surrender is they didn't full recognize who He was.
2. **John 6:16-25** Jesus put His disciples in a boat and crossed the Sea of Galilee to go to Capernaum. Because of the spark, the crowd followed Jesus to the other side. This is a 7 mile journey.
3. **John 6:26-65** Jesus reveals Himself as the bread of life that came from heaven and those who follow Him must eat His flesh and drink His blood.
  - a. **John 6:35, John 6:41-42, John 6:50-56, John 6:60** - Jesus reveals truths about who He is that both create light and misunderstanding. Our call as disciples is to stick with the light we have and chase down that which we don't understand until we understand it. **Proverbs 25:2.**
  - b. Peter and the 12 stuck with the life and light they had, the others did not. This is why they left. This happens frequently with Christians today: ex: have light about a situation and then God moves in a way they didn't expect and they quit.
4. **Deuteronomy 8:3**
  - a. Manna means “What is it?” Israel didn't understand it.

- b. God allowed them to hunger and fed them with “What is it” so they would know man doesn’t live by bread alone, but by every word that **proceeds** from the mouth of God.
- c. God allowed them to hunger so they would learn to depend on His voice in lack so they could know how to depend on Him in abundance when they took a promised land.
- d. Sometimes God will feed us things we don’t understand because He knows it’s what we need to take us where He wants us to go. I went to Charis because I wanted to walk in faith and see miracles. For 1 1/2 years He fed me grace and I was like, “What is it?” Long story short when it finally clicked my view of God changed and began to understand how good He is and how much He loves and that was the key to seeing miracles start in my life.

### III. Conclusion

A. The reason we want to be a disciple is life is in His voice. When Jesus spoke to His disciples He brought life. When God spoke to Israel, His voice brought life.

B. Discipleship is a relational journey not an event or a class. On the journey, God will feed us things from His word we don’t always like and understand because He is trying to stretch us to prepare us for something greater than we are currently walking in. **We need to stay with God when we don’t understand and as we do, we will eventually understand.**

C. Call Up Prayer Team

D. Pray Closing Prayer

