TRUE DISCIPLES

Revivals & Rhythms

Message Notes

Tension

- I want to start with a question that may sound like a no-brainer, but I'm going to ask it.. ARE YOU A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?
  - Almost everyone would say yes. How do you know if you are a disciple of Christ?
- The Separation
  - Starting with John the Baptist, but then Jesus, there was a constant separation between true and false disciples.
    - John the Baptist - To the Pharisees (Children of Abraham doesn't mean anything)
    - Jesus - Not everyone that says Lord Lord
    - Jesus - Two builders
    - Jesus - People wanting follow but not wanting to give up comfort
    - Jesus - The test of fruitfulness
    - Bottom line here - You can be stuck in a mode of religious, but not disciple
  - Recently I prayed with someone who had a family member that is deeply religious, but their life doesn't at all reflect Christ likeness.
- Noticing True Disciples
  - Bethany is 63 years old. I have been around for 45 of those years. I am privileged to know some great disciples.
  - These people have new natures.
  - These people have fruit.
  - These people have the Holy Spirit flowing through their lives.
- Our task as a church
  - Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT) — 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- We have seen 2000 people come to Christ since January, now we carry a deep burden to see every one of those people become true disciples.
- Briefly mention the four things that make disciples, then tackle two today.

Two Things That Create Mature Disciples

God Moments

- Our journeys are all marked along the way with moments we met God.
  - The moment of repentance and salvation.
  - The moment of baptism.
  - The moment of being filled with the Spirit.
  - The moment of first taking communion.
- True God moments change us from before and after
  - Saul was changed to Paul
  - Peter, James, and John on the mount of transfiguration
  - Peter on the rooftop
- Planned moments
  - Baptism
  - Encounter Retreat
  - Holy Spirit night
  - IN THIS POINT EMPHASIZE BAPTISM, ENCOUNTER RETREAT, HOLY SPIRIT NIGHT
- Unplanned moments
  - The unplanned God moments that mark us.
    - Chapel service with Danny Chambers.
    - Leading worship at an Atlanta church
  - Biblical examples
    - Ana and Simeon in the temple – Luke 2:25–38
  - What we can know about these moments.
  - These moments can be sought
  - James 4:8 (NLT) — 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you.
  - Deuteronomy 4:29 (NLT) — 29 But from there you will search again for the LORD your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.
- God moments always follow PURSUIT!
  - When you show up, when you press in, when you sacrifice, when you linger

Spiritual Rhythms

- This next one is so important because our journey with God is not just built on miraculous moments. It's also built on mundane methods!
- My observation of mature disciples - **THEY REMAIN FAITHFUL**
- John 8:31–32 (NLT) — 31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "**You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings**. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- True disciples remain
  - **Faithful to the word** - A little bit every day.
    - Pastor Jude - Whole Bible over 40 times
    - Marylyn Hickey - Could quote many books of the Bible for memory
    - Smith Wigglesworth - 5 pounds to anyone who caught him without his Bible.
    - We are in our fifth month of the year. How is your daily Bible reading?
  - **Faithful in prayer** - pray at all times
    - Checking in with heaven.
    - God made us to be His vassals on earth. How can we work for Him and not check in with him?
    - His disciples said, “teach us to pray”.
  - **Faithful in fellowship** - spiritual friendships constantly inspiring each other
    - Some of the people I honor in God’s house are the ones who intentionally pursue the fellowship of believers.
    - The Goree’s have led a group for years
    - The Dicharries have opened their home for years
    - Mr. Collier has gotten together with another brother for years and gone witnessing and sharing his faith.
  - **Faithful in serving** - there is a consistent outlet of pouring out
    - Tim and Mary Alexander have served in kids ministry for years.
    - Angie Mercier has prayed for every service for years
    - Stephen Lanford has served with Mentorship program and Bold for years.
- What’s the point of sharing all of these people - They are disciples of Christ. These rhythms are helping to form in them the maturity of a disciple.

So, you need both God moments, and spiritual rhythms in your life to form you into a mature disciple. Let’s make it practical.

- If you’ve never repented of sin and started the journey with Jesus, today is your day
- If you’ve never followed the Lord in baptism, today is your day
- If you’ve never been on a retreat, sign up for the one in the fall.
- If you’ve never had a visitation from the Lord, seek Him with all your heart.
- If you’ve had all of these things, but the fire grows cold, try FAITHFULNESS.

Closing

- I want to appeal to the very first group. If you have never had the moment of repentance, and you need to today, let’s have that moment right now!