

The Story of Jesus

Part 6: What does a disciple look like?

Mark 3:7-19 - [watch online](#)

Summary:

We are products of our influences. We like what we like and think what we think mostly because someone told us it was the right thing to like and the right thing to think. The Story of Jesus gives us the ability to clearly and purposely reevaluate our life's influences and rewrite our own stories.

Main Points:

[00:44] We are products of our influences.

[02:27] We have the ability to choose to add new inputs and eliminate others.

[06:15] We can follow Jesus as a healer and philosopher or we can follow him as our leader and King.

[08:28] Jesus didn't come to give us nice teachings, he came to give us a revolution.

[10:00] A disciple chooses to be purposely influenced by Jesus in such a way that they eventually say and do the same things Jesus did.

[12:24] To be like Jesus we have to be with Jesus.

[13:48] Discipleship isn't knowing about Jesus' life. It's becoming like Jesus in our life.

[15:00] You know you are a disciple of Jesus because you are purposely practicing it.

[18:37] Everything changes when we allow our story to be fully influenced by the Story of Jesus.

Invitation:

To be a disciple of Jesus...

- Decide to accept Jesus' invitation
- Ask him to teach and guide you
- Follow him

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out, bothered, or resonated with you in this week's message?
2. What fictional character do you think Jesus would use as an example of what it looked like to be his disciple?
3. Jon talked about the distinction between a fan of Jesus and a disciple of Jesus. How would you define the difference between the two? Which one do you see yourself as right now?
4. Read Colossians 3:17. Reflect on the influences in your life. Do you feel satisfied with where they have led you? Are there any influences you feel you need to eliminate or add to align more closely with being a disciple of Jesus?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

Transcript:

IN: For the most part we like what we like and value what we value b/c at some point someone told us those are good things and we believed them.

But how do we know those someones were actually right?

The Story of Jesus gives us an opportunity to rethink and reevaluate what influences we've allowed to shape us.

And possibly consider a new primary influence that promises to be what we've been looking for all along...

Hard to believe the hype? Let's talk about it... together.

WE: None of us were formed in a vacuum... just free to become who we decide to be.

We are products of our influences.

We are who we are because someone or some someone's input influenced our thinking and view of the world

- Some very subtle/not subtle influences
- Sometimes we choose them and sometimes we were born into it or just stumbled on them

Parents/teachers/coaches/siblings/friends/media/news/culture...

These influences eventually affect almost every aspect of our lives... our choices, thoughts, views, feelings, politics/food/religion/entertainment/values/reactions

ME

Family- Spicy food/Football/Ministry/Outdoors

Guitar- John

All welcome- Liz and family

Hate snakes- Indiana Jones

Kids

Star Wars/Legend of Zelda- Me

Harry Potter- Liz

"Oh but I'm an individual, a free thinker..." Who told you that was a good thing?

- Western values... Eastern not as much.

But what's great about being a human... we aren't stuck... we have the ability to choose to add new inputs and eliminate others...

- Me and talk radio

Unfortunately, and this isn't really our fault... we don't usually think about what is influencing us...

We are just trying to get to the next weekend, paycheck, promotion, relationship, milestone, or we are too busy making sure our kids have the right influences.

But Jesus offers us something better... not a life free of influences... he offers ***to be the*** influence through which and by which we can evaluate every other input trying to force its way into our minds.

He offers to make us into who we were always meant to be... and to become an influence for good ourselves...

See it clearly in Mark's account of Jesus life... in the difference between his fans and his disciples...

GOD: Review: Jesus very popular. Teaching. Healing. Challenging the old way of doing religion... starting to get pressure from religious leaders... but common people love him... so goes outside of town by a lake where there's more room and freedom and the religious leaders don't have as much influence...

3:7-12 Disciples and the crowd. Two main types of people around Jesus

- Also see enemies... few but loud.

Why are the crowds flocking to him?

- B/c they heard his message and want to repent and believe and live in the KoG now?

No... to be healed of course!

In a world where medical practices were rather primitive... anyone who could actually cure disease... cure anyone of any disease...free of charge- would become very popular very fast.

They came to Jesus b/c they wanted to benefit from Jesus.

- Completely understandable
- Don't blame them at all.. Human nature...

Similar to today... Most people don't have any animosity toward Jesus of Nazareth.

- He's a mildly interesting historical figure, with some good teaching/philosophy
- Might go listen to someone talk about him and sing about him to hopefully get something to help their week or to enjoy Christmas.
- And if he can give them something to help their lives a bit they aren't against trying it out.
- But he's not a major influence on their lives... just more part of their culture of influence, one of many options and inputs...
- and maybe he's good for a little course redirection and spiritual shot in the arm.

Not bad... but Jesus IS so much more and offers so much more... but to find it we have to realize the difference between being part of the crowd and being a disciple.

We can follow Jesus as a healer and philosopher or we can follow him as our leader and King.

His true identity wasn't something the people had recognized yet... but it was something the demons knew at once.

They were very much aware that they had come up against an infinitely superior spiritual power... and couldn't do anything about it.

So they would throw a tantrum and try to blow his cover...

Again... Jesus ("sternly commands") tells them to shut up

Why? One reason... It's not time for the crowds to know... Jesus doesn't need more fans... needs something more.

And it's also not time for the current leadership to know... for Jesus to be the Son of God meant he was here to set up a new kingdom... which of course he was...

And new kingdoms require revolutions against old kingdoms... which again he was there to bring...

- But not the way anyone who heard about it would understand...
- Especially the current king backed by the current ruling empire.

Besides, you can't have a real revolution unless you have followers who are equipped to take part in the revolution...

V. 13 Up on a mountain... Not a fun little camping trip with Jesus.

The cultural and political climate was very precarious and tumultuous... a lot of people wanted to overthrow the puppet kingdom the Romans had installed and restore Israel's independence.

So charismatic leaders would draw people to themselves and try to begin revolts...

Mountainous region was where revolutionaries went to plot and train and prepare away from the prying eyes of Rome and Temple (who was often in the pocket of the empire)

And in a sense that is exactly what Jesus is doing here...

Jesus didn't come to give us nice teachings he came to give us a revolution

And he needed leaders in his revolution...

V. 14-15 Why 12? All that were available? Only had to clean toilets once a month?

Every Jew knew there had originally been 12 tribes of Israel... but 10 had been lost 700 years earlier when the Assyrians invaded and took the 10 northern tribes into captivity where they were never heard from again.

But Israel's prophets had promised that God would restore Israel and many Jews were waiting and longing for the restoration of a new Israel. Where God would turn everything around and make them great again...

So Jesus choosing 12 main people is a very clear (and revolutionary) statement that he considers himself the one who will restore true Israel... in reality true humanity.

And what was the assignment for these 12 people who would change the world?

- Accompany him... to be with him, to learn about him, to learn from him... to be influenced by him
- And once they are thoroughly influenced... they would be sent out to preach and
- Have authority to do the things he was doing

A disciple chooses to be purposely influenced by Jesus in such a way that they eventually say and do the same things Jesus did.

So who did he choose? What qualifications did they have?

V. 16-19 Apparently the only qualification needed to be a disciple of Jesus is to have a name.

You might say... well Jesus only chose men. And that is true BUT...

That has to do with the culture and time they were in, and maybe the fact that as they traveled they would be sharing basic resources and accommodations... than some theological idea that Jesus uses men more/differently than women...

As we see later in the story and in the other accounts there were many women (who also had names) that were heavily involved in Jesus' ministry... at least one even sat at his feet to learn as only male disciples typically did.

- Incredibly rare for the time and place

Now try to put yourself in their sandals...

Wouldn't it be amazing to be chosen by God himself to be with him and trained to be one of the people to bring his kingdom to earth now... to be formed to work with God to change and save lives... to learn how to show people the power and love of Jesus... wouldn't that just be mind blowing to be chosen?

YOU ARE!

That is Jesus' invitation to all of us... passage we've been reading this last week... **Matt 11:28-30**

He invites everyone to come be with him and learn from him and become like him.

But **To be like Jesus we have to be with Jesus.**

He doesn't just choose the 12 and say "ok great now Go!"

It's not until 3 chapters later that they get their first chance to "try it out"

- First they spend time with him, purposely learning and training and watching.

And throughout the story they are still learning and failing and growing...

We don't use the word disciple very much in our culture... but we do use apprentice. It's the same idea.

What does an apprentice electrician do?

Works for and with a master electrician... learning to do what they... watching them, asking questions, hanging out with other electricians. Practicing and learning with the purpose of becoming like the master electrician.

To be a disciple of Jesus at its core means to apprentice ourselves to Jesus...

And what did Jesus do?

- He lived in and lived out the KoG for the good of others and made it possible for others to experience the KoG themselves.

When we apprentice ourselves to Jesus as his disciple we learn to do the same.

How? Not by knowing a lot... you don't become a master electrician just by reading books about electricity and going to lectures by electricians... you become a master electrician by actually doing the work.

Discipleship isn't knowing about Jesus' life. It's becoming like Jesus in our life

- If he were living my life how would he live it?
- If he were a teacher how would he treat his students/how would he design curriculum
- If he sold insurance how would he interact with clients... how would he choose policies?
- If he were a parent to my kid how would he interact and train them?
- How would he accomplish his primary purpose of seeking and saving the lost if he were living my life right now?
- How would he "preach" the good news of the KoG?

But how do I know if I am really a disciple?

It's not a mystical/intangible/spiritual thing

- If you were an electrician's apprentice you would know it right?
- Hey, who's your boss/who's apprentice are you?... Levi's.

If you're learning piano... you know it and you know who your teacher is.

You know you are a disciple of Jesus b/c you are purposely practicing it.

YOU: Following Jesus is about becoming... and we are the product of our influences... we need to choose wisely.

Let me ask you some questions... What product have your current influences created?

- Are you 100% satisfied with where your current influences have brought you?
- Do your relationships bear the fruit of healthy inputs?
- Do your thoughts/reactions/feelings/actions show the life-giving influence of Jesus?
 - Tired of letting yourself be influenced by things that just rile you up, stress you out, and make you angry/anxious/irritated?

Are you ready to become more than a fan of Jesus ? Are you ready to step out of the crowd and become or continue being one of the people personally chosen by God himself to bring his kingdom to earth now?

If so then you are invited to apply for apprenticeship...

Decide to accept Jesus' invitation

- It's a choice, a purposeful decision. Not something that just accidentally happens to the select few
- Not born into it... Not hope for it.
- You consciously choose it.

- Tell him. I want you to be my influence and my king.

Ask him to teach and guide you

- Daily... Shower is a great time for a company meeting

Follow him

- Study him... Gospels... and NT- what it looked like to follow him in 1st cent
- Practice the Art of Following Jesus
 - Take time to practice solitude/silence/prayer
 - Commit to training to be outwardly focused together
 - Practicing blessing people
 - Practice frugality and generosity
 - Regularly eat and drink with people
 - Find times and ways to worship God for who he is and what he has done
 - Purposely choose to enjoy what God has given you as a celebration of his goodness and care
 - There are others too

WE: Who we are is the result of the influences of our lives.

God, through Jesus, has given us the ability to completely rewrite the script of our lives.

He has given us the ability to become who he created us to be... to become like the greatest person to ever live...

Imagine what a family of Jesus' apprentices would be like to live with? To live next door to?

An office of disciples working and interacting with each other?

Neighborhoods being influenced by people who have purposely chosen to be with and learn from Jesus?

What would happen if we, the people of Crosscreek, committed to being disciples who not only know but become like Jesus in every part of our lives?

The world would never be the same... how do I know... b/c it happened once before... the world was changed forever... it's been happening ever since and it can with us...

Everything changes when we allow our story to be fully influenced by the Story of Jesus.

Col. 3:17