

No Hidden Agenda
Becoming God's
True Disciple

Mid Week Instruction
Reid Temple AME Church
Pastor Washington

Introduction

- Disciples have passion for God's Word and experience great delight in the study of God's word.
- What is your passion? Could it be a part of God's ordained purpose that looks and feels like a legitimate way to honor God, or is it just your own selfish desire?
- We must first be disciples before we can reasonably make disciples. We must be careful of our motives and not go beyond what is openly said or shown. God will reveal those undisclosed desires or "hidden agenda" for why we do what we do.

The Great Commission

- The very last words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew are summed up in the Great Commission.
- This is a call to the church to make disciples. **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you, always, even to the end of the age. AMEN”**
- Reid Temple must make Jesus final words our first works.

Chapter 1:

Focus on Following Jesus

- There are times when we lose sight of the Savior and focus more on ministry, theology, efficiency, programs, and policy. While these things are good and necessary, we lost Jesus in the busyness and clamor of these good things.
- You can't be a true disciple seeking what was in it for yourself. You can't be a true disciple operating with a hidden agenda.
- Following Jesus is not easy but the difficulties do not negate the joy.

Reflections & Challenges

- In what ways have we as a Church lost sight of Jesus?
- What tangible things can we do to avoid the busyness and clamor of our lives that cause us to lose sight of the Savior?
- Provide three reasons why you continuously need Christ in your life?
- QUESTIONS?????

Chapter 2:

Path Towards Spiritual Maturity

- The more you appreciate being a disciple of Jesus, the more you will seek to grow closer to Him. The more you grow closer to Jesus, the more you grow up spiritually.
- A thousand or more people make decisions for Jesus each year at Reid but hundred's leave. Many claim to be born again but the evidence of mature Christian discipleship is slim.
- There is great virtue for a religious experience but little enthusiasm for patient acquisition of long term apprenticeship.

Path Towards Spiritual Maturity

- In order to facilitate spiritual growth, Jesus gives us demands. This helps us to separate boys from the men, girls from the women and children from adults.
- The commitment to spiritual growth that Jesus demands is defined in one statement: “If anyone will come after Me. Let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23.
- Obedience is the true test of our love for Christ and the secrets for discovering God’s Will for our lives.

Path Towards Spiritual Maturity

- A follower of Christ must be a follower all the time. We need to consider deeply the seriousness of the obligation involved. We must submit ourselves to His lordship.
- In order to be disobedient, one must submit to temptation or commit acts against the commandments of the Lord. Simply stated, disobedience is doing what God says not to do.
- Disobedience is consequential by nature. When you operate this way, you put distance between you and God. The demands of Christ could sometimes cause us to drift into disobedience.

Reflections & Challenges

- The Apostle Paul said that spiritual growth is an ongoing process. All things are progressive steps in the process of growing from childhood to adolescence and beyond.
- Explain the difference between God's perfect will for your life and God's permissive will.
- Spiritual maturity is easily recognized by your consistency in following Christ. Too many Christians have a double life. Gives some examples of double living as a Christian you have seen in Reid Temple.
- QUESTIONS??????????

Chapter 3:

Perils of Convenient Christianity

- Sadly some people find it difficult to be committed to anything other than themselves. Some cannot stay committed to a relationship, a job, or an assignment.
- They will be committed to a worthy cause if it satisfies their self-interest and self-benefit.
- Some will join a ministry, a club, or an organization with the appearance of being committed but are operating with a hidden agenda.

Peril of Convenient Christianity

- Biblical conviction is the product of three things that characterize the ideal Christian leader or the person of maturity.
- (a) a commitment to scripture as one's authority
- (b) the construction of specific beliefs and convictions based on that authority.
- (c) the courage to act on those convictions in faith.
- Many people come to church for the word but nothing has changed. They go home only to do the same thing.

In Discipleship There Are No Shortcuts

- The word discipleship means different things to different people. If we desire intimacy and depth in our relationship with Jesus we must be His disciples. His students and be in intimate relationship with Him.
- There are no short cuts to making disciples of Jesus. If we intend to grow in any relationship we must commit to that person and be intentional about investing time, attention with that person and to that relationship.

In Discipleship There Are No Shortcuts

- All relationships take time, attention, commitment, intentionality and discipline. Our relationship with Jesus is the same. It requires devotion, presence attention and affection. It requires this forever.

Reflections & Challenges

- There is a tendency to take for granted things which are convenient. Following Jesus Christ is not about convenience, but about commitment.
- Causes and people that we are truly committed to, we will go out of our way to ensure their needs are met.
- In what ways has convenience become your Christ? How has this been reflected in the Church?

Reflections & Challenges

- When people come to church they are looking for real believers who can put them in touch with a real God who can help them with real problems.
- Do you consider yourself to be a real follower of Jesus. Do you cut people off with your tongue?

Reflections & Challenges

- Is your heart full of envy and jealousy? Do you enjoy grudges and waiting for the chance to spring into revenge?
- Discipleship requires denial of self-interest and desires a total commitment to do the will of God even to the point of death.
- QUESTIONS??????

What Can Reid Temple Do Better to Make Disciples?

- 1. Model discipleship not membership.
- 2. Don't be discouraged by starting from nothing and starting over.
- 3. Before reaching outside of Church be sure to reach inside first.

What Can Reid Temple Do Better to Make Disciples?

- 4. Don't try to fix the Church before being the Church.
- 5. Teach the Curriculum throughout the Church.

Chapter 4:

Is It Really Worth It?

- You can tell the cost of something by its quality. We ought to give our best to Jesus because it cost Jesus his life.
- Get rid of all our pride, thinking our goodness will be enough. Never forget what it cost for our salvation.
- Offering ourselves to Jesus is going to cost you some friendships, fleshy desires, aches and pains, there is no such things as cross less Christianity.

Reflections & Challenges

- The pleasures of this world are empty and don't really satisfy. When we have tasted the pleasures of this carnal world we develop an appetite for them.
- What habits do you participate in on a regular basis that factor into your spiritual maturity. What areas in your life can you make personal improvement for the glory of God?
- What do you see when you look into the mirror of your soul?
- QUESTIONS?????