

Discipleship

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 9:23.

B. Three words basic to discipleship: decision, discipline and devotion.

II. Decision.

A. Discipleship is the big decision from which all other choices fit - like deciding to get married.

B. The speaker gave his life to Christ after hearing the gospel from a preacher. There was no emotional upheaval, but he simply surrendered himself to the Savior one night in his prayers. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

C. Eventually the speaker chose to follow Christ as Lord.

III. Discipline.

A. Discipline is being channeled by choices consistently.

B. Is your life focused or blurred? Do you leave a blur or a mark?

C. You have to say “no” to some things in order to say “yes” to the right things. To deny oneself is to say “no” to oneself.

D. Our rejection of self is the first step to true spirituality. We ought not to pray that negative things disappear, but that we face the negative things in the proper attitude.

E. You can say no by practicing the Beatitudes (the “Beautiful Attitudes”). (Matthew 5)

1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Depend on the Lord and not yourself. (Psalm 129:5)

2. “Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.”

F. We channel choices daily.

IV. Devotion.

A. Devotion warms it all up because it is focused on a Person - Jesus Christ.

B. This is not devotion to ideas or systems. It is a vital connection to Jesus. (Psalm 86:11)

C. We need to be able to recognize the one dominant familiar Voice in the midst of the confusion. This is discipleship.

D. Devotion to Jesus demands sacrifice. (John 12:26)

E. Jesus came to preach good news to the meek, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to comfort the mourners, to bring praise for the spirit of heaviness. (Isaiah 61:1)

F. We are to be in the hard places like Jesus was.

G. We ought to have the kind of devotion that loves to the end. (John 13)

Application questions

1. Why is “decision” foundational to discipleship? Can you recall the first time you made a decision for Christ?

2. What has the Lord been trying to get you to say “no” to? Have your attempts to say “no” been successful? What might you do differently in light of the message?

3. Why does following Jesus lead us into the “hard places?” What hard places have you been avoiding that the Lord might be calling you to take action in? How can you become active in those areas?
