Unpacking the Preach

Date: 17th January 2021
Sermon Title: Foundations of Discipleship: The Call to Follow
Bible Passage: Luke 9: 18 - 27

Recapping the Preach
Take time to read the three passages and perhaps look at a different translation
- What stood out to from the passages?

Stu described the difference between the modern idea of following and the understanding the disciples would have had of what it means to follow. He went on to describe discipleship in a 1st Century context.
- We all follow in various ways: authors, preachers, podcasters, social media. Who do you follow and why? What influence are they having on you?
- How do the people/things you follow line up with Paul's encouragement in Philippians 4:8-9?
- 'To 'follow' nowadays is a relationship of convenience where we are passive recipients who are in control and don't really need to commit to anything'. Do you agree/disagree with this statement? If this attitude has crept into the church, what can be done about it?
- When you put your trust in Jesus, how much were you told about 'following Jesus'?

Stu pointed out that the way the story unfolds is important. Jesus ruled out what the crowds thought of him. Pressed the disciples for what they thought. Revealed His suffering to come and then described what following Him would look like.
- Why do you think Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone about Peter's revelation of who He is?
- Why do you think Jesus told the disciples about His coming suffering?
- Stu made the point that 'We cannot understand Jesus, the one we follow, until we have understood that his suffering, death and resurrection are central to his mission and we cannot understand the call to follow until we grasp that it is a challenge to cross shaped discipleship'. Discuss this statement. What do you understand by the term 'cross shaped discipleship'? What does cross shaped discipleship look like in your life at the moment?

Stu focused on unpacking vs.23 as a description of what following Jesus looks like and how we are to understand it. He made three main points: we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross daily and follow Jesus.
- How do you understand these three terms: 1) he must deny himself 2) pick up his cross daily 3) and follow Jesus?
- Stu pointed out that denying ourselves is to say no to ourselves in order that we can say yes to God. Do you agree? How else might this be applied?
- Stu made the point that 'picking up our cross daily' means picking up God's purpose for our life. Do you agree? How else might this be applied?
- Stu made the point that following Jesus includes learning His words, imitating His ways, following His life and character and putting these into practice in our lives. Do you agree? How else might this be applied?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- What can you do, to follow Jesus more wholeheartedly - today?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that we would follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- https://www.gotquestions.org
- https://enduringword.com
- https://www.biblica.com
- https://biblehub.com/commentaries/