

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 23rd April 2021
Sermon Title: What is a disciple?
Bible Passage: Luke 5: 27 - 32

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read the passage, perhaps from a few different translations.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- Compare Levi's calling to be a disciple with Peter's (Luke 5:1-11). What are the similarities in the language, what are the differences?
- Which of the Priorities and Purposes (that we explored on in March) are reflected in this text?

Stu began by exploring the story and pointing out that Levi's was influenced by various things and that we are also. The important point for us here is: whatever influences us, ultimately disciples us. So whatever influences us the most, disciples us the most.

- Think about how you spend your time. What would you say are the things that influence you?
- Who or what has had the most positive influence upon your life? In what way?
- Who or what has had the most negative influence upon your life? In what way?
- Why do you think Levi simply got up, left everything and followed Jesus?

Stu added to the Foundations of Discipleship that we explored in January and said that to be a disciple of Jesus means to come under the influence of Jesus. He went on to say that this finds expression in three ways.

First disciples are learners - those who learn from Jesus' teaching. We renew our minds with His truth (Romans 12:1-2) so that both our minds and our character are transformed.

- How do approach studying the Bible?
- What are you studying at the moment?
- Can you think of an example where your mind was renewed so that you began to think differently on an issue?

Second disciples are apprentices - an apprentice is someone who has decided to be with another person, under appropriate conditions to learn what that person does and become what that person is.

- Where have you been applying the things you learn from Jesus in everyday life? Can you give an example?
- What teaching can you recognise in Luke 5:27-32 that can be applied to our lives?

Thirdly disciples are followers of Jesus. Stu mentioned that Jesus has some hard things to say about following (Luke 9:23, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 10:34ff). Ultimately when it comes to Jesus, we can only follow one thing at a time and Jesus will not be one of many we follow.

- How would you explain the above texts to someone who is not yet a Christian?
- What do you find difficult about following Jesus?
- What is your deepest joy in following Jesus?

Ultimately, discipleship comes down to surrender - we surrender our lives to the Lordship of Jesus.

- It seems like Levi surrendered everything, at once. Is this your experience?
- Have there been moments of deeper consecration or surrendering to Jesus in your life?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Where are your surrendering to Jesus in your life at the moment?

Prayer pointers

- Pray that we might have a passion for learning.
- Pray that we would connect our learning from Jesus to service in Jesus name.
- Pray that we would follow Jesus with long obedience in the same direction, regardless of the cost.
- Pray that we would live lives surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus.

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/>