

The Way of Jesus

Midweek Update, Week 1

Most weeks, I hope to send out a mid week email, encouraging you to keep up with us, and giving us a forum to share thoughts on discipleship with each other.

To share thoughts: Hit 'Reply All' to this email and give us a short paragraph on what you are discovering as you do the assignments through the week. What is Christ speaking to you from Luke? How are you responding to it? What difference is it making?

Some of my own thoughts this week:

- Isn't it great to be reading Luke, a chapter a day, with 50 other people?
- Did you find yourself praying with Mary (Luke 1.46-56) and Zechariah (Luke 1.68-79)? I did. 'Praying the scriptures' is so very rewarding.
- Didn't you like how Mary '*kept all these things, pondering them in her heart*' (Luke 2.19, 51)? I would like to think about things more deeply before the Lord, and speak about them more slowly.
- John the Baptist (Luke 3) was a straight up guy, wasn't he? Forceful. Blunt. Focused on repentance. Don't you think God sends guys like John to every one of us at times? Makes me wonder how well I do at listening to them.
- Isn't it amazing how much the temptations to Jesus are so very similar to the temptations we face? And he fasted for 40 days! And met each temptation with Scripture he had memorized! Something else to ponder!

Added notes to last week's handout:

Question: As you look back over these notes on discipleship, who is the 'primary actor' in the process of discipleship, you or Jesus? Are you surprised by your answer?

We think that discipleship is all about our effort, our commitment, and our obedience. While discipleship cannot happen without our active involvement, there is no doubt that it is primarily something that Jesus himself did (and still does!). He chose, called, served, taught, loved, sacrificed for and filled those first disciples. He does the same today. Christian discipleship is a partnership between his initiative towards us and our response to him; in this partnership, he does all the heavy lifting! We can't do it without him, and he won't do it without us!

Thoughts on Discipleship by A.W. Tozer

(quoted in 'Apprenticeship with Jesus', Gary Moon, p 54)

*A real Christian is an odd number anyway.
He feels supreme love for one he has never seen.
He talks familiarly every day to someone he cannot see,
Expects to go to heaven on the virtue of another,
Empties himself that he might be full,
Admits he is wrong so he can be declared right,
Goes down in order to get up.
He is strongest when he is weakest,
Richest when he is poorest,
And happiest when he feels worst.
He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have,*

*Gives away so he can keep,
Sees the invisible,
Hears the inaudible,
And knows that which passes knowledge.*

This Coming Sunday:

- Complete the devotional reading (Luke 1-6, Philippians 1) and make sure you have written down some of your own thoughts on your own discipleship in a journal.
- Handouts from previous weeks will be available
- We meet from 10:25-11:15 in the Sanctuary. New people are welcome this week and next – but after that we will encourage people to wait till we offer the seminar again.
- Remember: “*Truth is captured by obedience*” (Alf Stanway) or, “*Blessed are you if you do these things*” (Jesus)