

“Discipleship Means Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus”

Mark 6:45-52 / Matthew 14:22-33

6/2/24

Message 16

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Discipleship Means Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus”

- **We Have Been Studying Discipleship**

- **The Word Discipleship**

- Greek: MATHETES (math-ay-tes')

- Means - A learner, i.e. pupil: KJV-- disciple

- One who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of conduct, and lives by it!

- I love the way Oswald Chambers defines it!

- *Discipleship means personal, passionate devotion to a Person---our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a vast difference between devotion to a person and devotion to a principle or to a cause. Our Lord never proclaimed a cause--- He proclaimed personal devotion to Himself. **To be a disciple is to be a devoted bondservant motivated by love for the Lord Jesus.***

- Clear up Any Confusion – In Consumer Culter

- 1st I am Just A Christian – Not a Disciple

- There are some that think this way in our culture
 - But this is simply not true
 - When we embrace Jesus as Lord & Savior, we have become His Disciples

- **2nd We As Disciples need to CUT OUT Consumer thinking**

- Ask Yourself

- Are you Really a Disciple of Jesus or a Consumer?

- What's the difference? - Pastor Tim Brown (CCF)

- A Consumer asks, "Does this please me?"

- A Disciple asks, "Does this please God?"

- A Consumer asks, "What will I get out of it?"

- A Disciple asks, "What can I put into it?"

- A Consumer has their comfort in focus

- A Disciple has God's glory in focus

- Consumers want to be served

- Disciples want to serve

- Consumers need to be pampered

- Disciples want to be challenged

- Consumers want to pay as little as they can to get as much as they can

- Disciples pay full price for whatever God has for them.

- **Our Mission As A Disciple - We are to be About Our Lord's Business**

- **Follow Jesus**

- Wherever He goes!
- Follow Jesus' Words (All of THEM)
 - We don't get to pick and choose

- **SOULS – Disciples!!!**

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *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,*
20 *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.*

- **Evangelism**

- To Seek and SAVE that which was LOST
- Reaching out to people who do not know Him
- Sharing the gospel that their souls may be saved!

- **NOTE:**

- **This is EVERY CHRISTIAN'S Responsibility**

- Not just those called to Full Time Ministry

- **So – ALL Believers should see...**

- **Every Job, Family Holiday, Encounter, - As A Pulpit –**
 - As an opportunity to share Jesus –
 - The ONLY Hope for mankind
- **Every Disciple should be a Thermostat not a Thermometer**

- Every place we go should be elevated
- We go into worldly places we don't curse the darkness
- We shine His light
- We share His Truth in Love
- We show them Jesus

- **The Last 2 Weeks**

- **1st The Cost Of Being A Disciple (Mark 6:1-13)**

- **The Rejection That Can Happen vs. 1-6**
 - Even with Family
- **The Reliance On Jesus That Is Needed vs. 7-13**
 - Set them out in teams of 2
 - Trust God to PROVIDE
 - Simply Jesus

- **2nd Discipleship Means Trusting Jesus (Mark 6:14-56)**

- **Trusting Jesus By Dedication Our Life To Him Even If It Means Death vs. 14-29**
 - **1st Preach Repentance**
 - JTB Baptist – Jesus – the Apostles
 - All preached Repentance
 - We must turn from our sins

- **2nd Don't Be afraid to Speak Out**

- I Guess JTB did not get the memo
 - Don't be Political
 - Don't offend anyone with your message
- Current Evil in our nation
 - *Ralston; I wonder how many people realize a significant and greatly consequential corner was just turned in US History. Politics has always been a field fraught with conflict. But a democratic society can only survive when that conflict is limited to the realm of debate. When the power of the State is used to squelch an opponent, a huge step is taken toward tyranny. We just took it.*

- Paid for it with his life

- **Trusting Jesus To Meet Our Daily Needs vs. 30-44**

- Disciples needed rest
 - Multitudes followed
 - God has compassion
 - Jesus Feed the 5000 men
- Remember The mathematics of a miracle:
 - 5 Loaves + 2 Fish = Not Enough
 - 5 Loaves + 2 Fish + Jesus Christ = MORE THAN ENOUGH
 - Without Him - nothing... with Him - everything

- **Trusting Jesus In Difficult Circumstances vs. 45-56**

- Sent the Disciples Bethsaida
- He went to Prayer
- Came to them walking on the water
- We are going to dig into this now

- **Now This Morning Let's Look at 5 POWERFUL TRUTH Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus**

- The Example Jesus Gives On The Importance Of Prayer (Matthew 14:22-23)
- The Disciples Experience In The Storm (Matthew 14:24-26)
- The Encouragement Jesus Gives Us in The Storm (Matthew 14:27)
- Peter's Encounter With Jesus On The Water (Matthew 14:28-31)
- They Finally Believe the Extent Of His Power (Matthew 14:32-33)

The Example Jesus Gives On The Importance Of Prayer (Matthew 14:22-23)

- **First: The Need Is Immediate v. 22**

- **1st Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat v. 22**

Matthew 14:22 (NKJV)

22 *Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.*

- **Context**

- Just feed the 5000
- Now its time to send the multitudes away
- He MADE His Disciples leave

- **Jesus Made His disciples**

- Compelled
- I wonder what was going through the minds of the disciples as they got into the boat.
 - Why was Jesus making them leave without Him?
 - Who was going to protect Jesus from the crowds?
 - How was Jesus going to get back to Bethsaida without a boat?
- **Why Did He Do all this**
 - He wanted to be alone to pray
 - He wanted to escape the crowd and get some rest
 - He wanted the crowd to disperse so as to avoid a messianic uproar (John 6:15).

John 6:14–15 (NKJV)

14 *Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”*

15 *Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*

• **Second: The Need To Be Alone v. 23**

- **1st He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray v. 23**

Matthew 14:23 (NKJV)

23 *And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.*

▪ **Jesus Knew the Importance of PRAYER**

- In His great ministry to others,

- He did not – He could not – neglect prayer.
- This was His custom

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)

35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Luke 5:16 (NKJV)

16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:18 (NKJV)

18 And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, *“Who do the crowds say that I am?”*

○ **2nd Application – Importance Of PRAYER**

▪ **1st What Is Prayer**

- Talking with God –
 - Simple don't complicate it!

▪ **2nd We Are Commanded By God to Pray**

- God Commands us to pray
 - To call on His name and fall on our face and intercede for the needs of the church, our city, our state, our nation, and all the nations.
- Without Ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NKJV)

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- In Every Situation

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Never Giving Up

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

▪ **3rd If Prayer was IMPORTANT to / for Jesus**

- If Jesus needed to get away and Pray –
 - How much more for us!

▪ **4th Because of What it does in US**

- Someone might ask
 - If God loves us so much and knows everything we need before we ask,
 - Why do we need to pray?
- Our Greatest need is God
 - Because God is OUR Greatest NEED
 - We need time with Him more than food, water, air to breath
 - We need to sit at His feet and
 - Worship Him

- Receive from Him
- Hear from Him
- Time Exposure –
 - Think of your prayer time like “Photo Paper”
 - *Hughes; “Prayer is like a time exposure to God. As we expose ourselves to God for a half hour, an hour, perhaps two hours a day, his image is imprinted more and more upon us. More and more we absorb the image of His character, His love, His wisdom, His way of dealing with life and people.”*
- Keeps us Sharp –
 - Illustration – A Young Logger
 - *Some years ago a young man approached the foreman of a logging crew and asked for a job. “That depends,” replied the foreman. “Let’s see you fell this tree.” The young man stepped forward and skillfully felled a great tree. Impressed, the foreman exclaimed, “Start Monday!” Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday rolled by, and Thursday afternoon the foreman approached the young man and said, “You can pick up your paycheck on the way out today.” Startled, he replied, “I thought you paid on Friday.” “Normally we do,” answered the foreman, “but we’re letting you go today because you’ve fallen behind. Our daily felling charts show that you’ve dropped from first place on Monday to last on Wednesday.” “But I’m a hard worker,” the young man objected. “I arrive first, leave last, and even have worked through my coffee breaks!” The foreman, sensing the boy’s integrity, thought*

for a minute and then asked, “Have you been sharpening your ax?” The young man replied, “I’ve been working too hard to take the time.” What an obvious mistake. How could anyone make such an unthinking error? Yet the fact is that many of God’s servants fail in their appointed tasks because they do not take time to sharpen their lives in prayer. Indeed, when God’s servants candidly talk about their spiritual lives, a majority express guilt over their prayerlessness. This means that thousands are hacking away at their ministries with increasingly dull instruments that inevitably frustrate any possible success.

- His WILL becomes our heart

- We don’t bend God to our Will – He bends us to His will

- *Hughes; “Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. Aligned with God’s will, our whole person is elevated. Thus great things become possible in our character and actions.”*

- **5th We Pray For What it DOES for the CHURCH**

- Power & Boldness to fight the good fight

Ephesians 6:18–20 (NKJV)

18 *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

19 *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

20 *for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

▪ **6th Christians Fight on their knees**

- The Christian soldier—each person engaged in Christian ministry—fights on his knees!

▪ **7th Prayer is HARD Work**

- Think about it
 - How come
 - Its the smallest meeting at churches
 - When you go to pray – everything seems to fall apart
 - We can talk with someone about a prayer request for an hour yet the moment we go to pray distraction come
 - Because
 - Prayer is spiritual – the enemy is attacking
 - We must push through
- The Consumer
 - Needs to be encouraged to prayer With things like
 - “You’ll be blessed if you come and pray.”
 - “You’ll meet God in a new and powerful way if you come and pray.”
 - “Your faith will grow as it is exercised in prayer.”

- The Christian
 - Knows it's a privilege and responsibility to pray
 - Does so with thanksgiving in their heart
- **8th Application - How is your prayer life? –**
 - Dig into a little more – Really How is IT?!!!
 - Proud of our church in the way were praying
 - BUT we need MORE

The Disciples Experience In The Storm (Matthew 14:24-26)

• First: It Reveals How DIFFICULT Life Can Be v. 24-25

- **1st The boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves v. 24**

Matthew 14:24 (NKJV)

24 *But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.*

▪ 1st The Sea of Galilee

- Is well known for its sudden storms, and during this storm Jesus wasn't in the boat with the disciples.
 - John 6:19

John 6:19 (NKJV)

19 *So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.*

- Greek: stadia - total about 3-4 miles (stadia - 1/8 of mile)
- AKA they did not get very far

- **2nd In the fourth watch of the night v. 25**

Matthew 14:25 (NKJV)

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

- This was somewhere between 3am – 6am
 - According to Mark (Mark 6:47-52),
 - Jesus came to the disciples when the boat was in the middle of the sea and after they had exhausted themselves rowing against the waves and windy storm.

- **3rd Application – The Struggles Of Life Are Real**

- **1st Jesus Made them get into the boat!**
 - Did Jesus know the storm was coming? YES!
 - Did He deliberately direct them into the storm? YES
- **2 Kinds of Storms in our lives**
 - **1st Storms of Correction –**
 - When God Disciplines us! (Jonah)
 - There are times in our lives as believers that we are not living the way we should
 - There may be SIN in our lives
 - Maybe you have fell backwards into a past sin
 - Well God by HIS grace will send a storm to get you back on course
 - We may have our PRIORITIES wrong

- You're not attending church like you should
- You're not reading the Word and Praying like you should
- Maybe your living too much for this world
- The cares, the material things the pleasures
- Well God will send the storms
- **2nd Storms of Perfection –**
 - When God Helps us Grow! (here)
 - You are in His Will – yet storms Will come
 - God will use these storms to make you more like Jesus
 - So Don't think that Obedience to God brings Smooth Sailing
 - It Brings Spiritual Warfare
- **How we Responded is Critical**
 - Hear God's voice and do what you calls you to do
 - If in SIN – REPENT
 - If you are in His Will – SUBMIT
 - Don't develop a Victim Mentality
 - Wednesday Night David – Explain

- It would have been very easy for David to have what we call a VICTIM MENTALITY
- What is a Victim Mentality
 - Someone has described it this way
 - *“If you have a victim mentality, you will see your entire life through a perspective that things constantly happen ‘to’ you. Victimization is thus a combination of seeing most things in life as negative, beyond your control, and as something you should be given sympathy for experiencing as you ‘deserve’ better. At its heart, a victim mentality is actually a way to avoid taking any responsibility for yourself or your life. By believing you have no power then you don’t have to take action. In other words, any bad thing in your life is the fault of other people. They’re the ones that are bad, wrong or dumb, and you are good, right and brilliant. Other people do bad or stupid things, and you suffer as a result.”*
- Please NOTE –
 - Critical Distinction: Being a Victim vs. Victim Mentality
 - There is such a thing as an innocent victim.
 - We see examples in Scripture
 - Illustration
 - Joseph
 - Jesus

- The Problem With a Victim Mentality
 - 1st The Bible Doesn't Encourage a Victim Mentality
 - Illustration
 - Joseph
 - Daniel & Friends
 - JTB
 - Jesus
 - Even if we are hurt and we are innocent
 - We have been given VICTORY In JESUS and MUST WALK in that Victory
 - NOT sit around and complain
 - 2nd The Victim Mentality Affect Our View of Reality
 - Keeps us STUCK
 - We tend to see things through a negative lens.
 - We magnify the bad things that happen to us, and attribute them exclusively to people and forces outside of our control.
 - We lose our perspective on reality.
 - 3rd It Blinds Us To Our Sin
 - If we are always the victim

- Then somehow, we are never wrong
- We can become blind to Our Own Sin and our Need for a Savior
- 4th Takes the Joy out of Lives
- 5th It Damages Relationships

• **Second: It reveals how DISTURBED we can become v. 26**

- **1st Jesus went to them, walking on the sea v. 26**

Matthew 14:26 (NKJV)

26 *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.*

- **This walk on the water must have been quite a shock to the disciples**
 - They were indeed troubled and they cried out for fear.
 - Remember –
 - We are not talking about a bunch of weak men
 - We are talking about men's men's
- **Application**
 - In A Storm
 - The shadows are BIG

• **Third: It Reveals How DETAILED is our Lord's watch over us - Mark 6:48**

- **1st He saw them Straining in Rowing (Mark 6:48)**

Mark 6:48 (NKJV)

48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.
Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea,
and would have passed them by.

- Jesus NEVER Takes His Eyes off of you!
- Applications
 - Remembers His Promises

Hebrews 13:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
6 So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

Romans 8:31–39 (NKJV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.
34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”
37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Encouragement Jesus Gives Us in The Storm (Matthew 14:27)

• **First: Trust Him v. 27**

- **1st Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid v. 27**

Matthew 14:27 (NKJV)

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, *"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

- Jesus immediately spoke to them these comforting words.
 - there is an even greater solution and help at hand.
- **2nd Application**

John 16:33 (NKJV)

33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Peter's Encounter With Jesus On The Water (Matthew 14:28-31)

• First: Peter was INSPIRED to test the words of the Lord v. 28

- **1st Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water v. 28**

Matthew 14:28 (NKJV)

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

- **1st Lord, if it is You**
 - Greek: IF - and it is so - Or SINCE it is you
- **2nd Command Me to come**
 - The boldness of Peter
 - We have no idea what prompted Peter to ask such a question

- But his faith in Jesus was Amazing
- NO ONE ELSE asked the question!
- **3rd Application**
 - I wish I had more of Peter in me
 - Oh I know the Lord does GREAT things but I am still very cautious

• **Second: Peter was INVITED by the Lord to trust Him v. 29**

○ **1st Come v. 29**

Matthew 14:29 (NKJV)

29 So He said, “**Come.**” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

- **Come**
 - He walked on the water to go to Jesus.
 - ONLY 2 people in the history of the world have walked on Water!
 - Jesus and Peter
- **Application**
 - By Faith in His WORD - Promises –
 - Step out of the boat
 - Is Jesus CALLING you to COME to step out and serve in a way you never have before

• **Third: Peter was INTIMIDATED by the conditions surrounding him v. 30**

- **1st Beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me v. 30**

Matthew 14:30 (NKJV)

30 *But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”*

- So Many Find Fault with Peter
 - I Don't
 - He had the courage to ask what others did not ask
 - After he asked he stepped out
 - Yes when he saw his circumstances – more than Jesus he sunk
 - But the Lord was there to pick him up
- Application
 - How many of us are afraid to step out because we might fail?
 - The only way to never fail is to never try anything.
 - Show me a man who has never failed, and I'll show you a man who has never attempted anything.

• Fourth: Peter was INSTRUCTED as to what his real problem was v. 31

- **1st O you of little faith v. 31**

Matthew 14:31 (NKJV)

31 *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

- Peter Little Faith

- This little faith led to the doubt and distraction that made Peter sink under the wind and the waves.
- But Jesus said If you have faith like a little mustard seed...
- **Why did you doubt?**
 - Doubt is literally 'be divided in two'
 - True faith is single-mindedly focused on Jesus.
 - Put your whole weight on JESUS

They Finally Believe the Extent Of His Power (Matthew 14:32-33)

• **First: The difficult CIRCUMSTANCES were under His complete control v. 32**

○ **1st The wind ceased v. 32**

Matthew 14:32 (NKJV)

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

- **This makes me think that this storm was simply a test of their faith.**
 - When the test was over, the storm was over.
- **Application**
 - How are you doing with the tests in your life?
 - Passing or ailing?

• **Second: His true CHARACTER motivates us to continual worship v. 33**

○ **1st Those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him v. 33**

Matthew 14:33 (NKJV)

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

- Truly You are the Son of God
 - First time the disciples acknowledge it

Closing

• **Discipleship Means Keeping Your Eyes on Jesus**

- It seems that Peter began to sink when he began to look in the wrong direction.
 - He took his eyes off of Jesus and put them on his circumstances.

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- Keep your eyes on Jesus Look to Jesus

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*