CLA Camp Hill, PA
Teacher – Jim Hoffman

Based on the "NEXT" booklet by Daniel McNaughton and Shane Wilson



Question

How do <u>you</u> help yourself listen to Jesus?

First Principles

The word "discipleship" does not appear in the Bible because "sanctification" does.



 As we go through this series I will be teaching from the point of view that being a disciple is not something different from being a believer.

• Do not think there are two levels of belief – one that just concerns itself with the avoidance of hell, and another that seeks to glorify God while avoiding hell.

• "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone" — Martin Luther

"It (discipleship) is a consciously chosen and sustained relationship of interaction between the Lord and his apprentice, in which the apprentice is able to do, and routinely does, what he or she knows to be right before God."

Dallas Willard

Attribute #2 – Learning to Listen

Question

How do <u>you</u> help yourself listen to Jesus?

"It is one of the peculiar offices of the Holy Spirit to enlighten His people. He has done so by giving us His inspired Word, but the Book is never spiritually understood by anyone apart from the personal teaching of its great Author. You may read it as much as you will and never discover the inner and vital meaning unless your soul is led into it by the Holy Ghost Himself. You may have done well to learn the letter of truth, but you still need the Spirit of God to make it the light and power of God to your soul."

Charles Spurgeon

• John 14:25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

• John 16:12 "<u>There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now</u>. 13 <u>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.</u> He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."

• Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 <u>As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.</u> 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

 More scripture that illustrates there is no separation between believer and disciple.

These words of Jesus seem to teach that "talk is cheap".

 By that I mean that anyone can make a claim to know Jesus as Lord, but it is only those who hear His words, and put them into practice that do know him.

 Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" – Spoken as though ignoring what Jesus says and claiming Him as Lord are incompatible positions.

• So in order to "learn to listen" to Jesus I not only need to read His word, but many times I have to be a bit more inquisitive.

- Here are three questions to ask myself:
 - What does the text say?
 - What does the text mean?
 - How can I put it into practice?

 Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 <u>Take my yoke upon</u> <u>you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in</u> <u>heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my</u> <u>yoke is easy and my burden is light."</u>

- What does the text say?
- What does the text mean?
- How can I put it into practice?

- What does the text say?
 - Yokes, burdens, and rest.

- What does the text mean?
 - Have to do some digging for what His words might have meant in His day.

- How can I put it into practice?
 - Encourage myself and others.

 Every rabbi had his approach to interpreting the scriptures – this was commonly known as his "yoke".

 While each rabbi had to memorize the Torah, just like theologians today, not every rabbi emphasized the same things or taught the same things.

• These deviations in doctrine were covered in the rabbi's "yoke".

• To extend the image of the "yoke", the women who carried water from the village well back to their families often used a shoulder carrier called a "yoke".

 Add to this - The rabbis called the O.T. "living water," and so the yoke helps to carry the water.





• Interestingly enough, immediately following Jesus' "yoke" comments Matthew records two stories that involve what appeared to breaches of the sabbath.

 One where he and his disciples ate grain on the sabbath and another where Jesus healed on the sabbath, and then Jesus says, Matt 12:12 "How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."



 So when Jesus says, "my yoke is easy, my burden is light", what did he mean?

• A quote from Ray Vander Laan "And so I'm thinking it means something like this: You can't know the Law until you first know the Lawgiver. The Lawgiver loves his people and made the Law to benefit his people as an act of compassion. Therefore, whenever you interpret the Law in a way that contradicts the Perfect Law of Love, you've misunderstood the Law, because you've misunderstood the Lawgiver's heart."

Rules for Bible Study –

• Bible Study Rule #1 - When the plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense.

 Bible Study Rule #2 - There is only ever one interpretation of any text. There may be many applications, but only one interpretation.

• The "plain sense" rule in its expanded fashion -

 When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.

- Reading the scriptures will change your life and I also have found them to be an acquired taste.
- Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- Romans 12:Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

• Eph 5: For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

• Psalm 1:1 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. 2 But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.



- I am quickly reaching the conclusion that claim to be a disciple of Jesus, I must begin with "love".
- Mark 12:28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

So here is what I see

• If I claim to be a disciple of Jesus, I will manifest my love for God through worship and obedience.

• If I claim to be a disciple of Jesus, I will manifest my love for my neighbors through my service to them.

Challenges from Pastor Shane

 Large Groups – listen to the preached word and maybe even take notes.

• Small Groups – meet to study the Bible and dig deep.

 One-on-One – meet with a mentor, spiritual coach, or just a like minded friend to talk 'truth'.

• Alone – read, meditate, and pray through the scriptures.

Questions / Comments