CLA Camp Hill, PA
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Based on the "NEXT" booklet by Daniel McNaughton and Shane Wilson



Next Sunday

Living in Troubled Times

A study of Ecclesiastes

First Principles

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



"We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone"

Martin Luther

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Disciple Making 101.

Rom 8:29 For God knew his people in advance, <u>and he</u>
 <u>chose them to become like his Son</u>, so that his Son would be
 the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

• So, one could say that to be a disciple is to be like Christ (at least to some degree) – *it is the manifest will of God*.

• In fact, any progress we want to note in our walk with Christ needs to measured by how much we are like Him.

7 Attributes – Summary

According to the "NEXT" book, these are the 7 Attributes of Discipleship

- Attribute #1 Learning to Be With Jesus (Matt. 4:19)
- Attribute #2 Learning to Listen (Matt. 4:23)
- Attribute #3 Learning to Heal (Matt. 4:23-24)
- Attribute #4 Learning to Influence (Matt. 5:13-16)
- Attribute #5 Learning to Love (Matt. 5:43-45)
- Attribute #6 Learning to Pray (Matt. 6:5-15)
- Attribute #7 Learning to Manage (Matt. 6:19-24)

Attribute #1 — Learning to be with Jesus

Attribute #1 – Learning to Be With Jesus.

- Matt 11:28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."
- The importance of spending time with Jesus cannot be overstated – while it is true that His Holy Spirit lives in us, the Bible clearly tells us that He can be grieved, and He can be quenched, thus interrupting our time with Jesus.

Attribute #1 – Learning to Be With Jesus.

 There are two primary, intentional, ways we can spend time with Jesus - Bible Reading and Prayer.

• I would hasten to add here that it is exactly these two fronts that most of us will struggle with more than any other aspect of our faith.

• Why? Because they are the most effective tools we have and therefore they garner the most resistance.

"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

Learning to Listen

 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."

Learning to Listen

 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.

• 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, <u>AND</u> put them into practice that do know him.

Attribute #3 – Learning to Heal

God is able to heal anyone of anything.

 God has promised to, and will, heal "all of our diseases".

God does not always heal in the way, or timetable we want.

Never be guilty of "not asking".



 We should not see it as cop out to say that God can heal any believer of anything, and will, either now or in the resurrection.

 Phil 3:20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 <u>He will take our weak mortal</u> <u>bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his</u> <u>own</u>, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

Attribute #4 – Learning to Influence

"A preacher, or private Christian, who has lost the life of Christ, and the witness of his Spirit, out of his soul, may be likened to this salt. He may have the sparks and glittering particles of true wisdom, but without its unction or comfort. Only that which is connected with the rock, the soul that is in union with Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit, can preserve its savior, and be instrumental of good to others."

Adam Clarke

• If salt is to do its work of preservation with food, it must first penetrate the food it is to preserve.

• John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 <u>As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world</u>.



 We have been sent into the world – which is perhaps the exact opposite of what we might prefer.

 Salt is sometimes used to keep meat from rotting in places where there is no refrigeration.

 So could it be that we are to penetrate our culture so as to keep it from rotting?



Attribute #5 — Learning to Love

Remember these things about loving your neighbor –

Love is a verb, not a feeling or an emotion.

· I cannot do this on my own, I will need God's help.

• It is about intent, not perfection – am I making an effort?

 Do not set a false standard for yourself – in other words, do not measure your love for your neighbor by what you feel for them.

 You may never be close friends with some of them, and you may not even like being around them.

 But, measure your love for your neighbors by how you treat them.



- 1st Cor 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- Rom 12:20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 <u>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good</u>.

Attribute #6 – Learning to Pray

Here is a thought – the omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, sovereign God of the universe has chosen, at least to a degree, to run the world in response to the prayers of His very fallible children.

• So maybe we should take to heart that God hears and answers our prayers and begin to ask for the biggest and the best things we can imagine.

 After all, if I can have influence on the affairs of the world and on history itself, why wouldn't I pray accordingly?

• Sometimes we don't have because we don't ask. (James 4)



Here are my best pieces of advice for praying –

 Train ourselves to want God's will and His glory more than we want anything else!

 We've been given access to the throne room of God so never, ever, never be guilty of not asking!

Attribute #7 – Learning to Manage

 We've all been given different amounts of time, talent, and treasure to be used in our pursuit of Jesus.

 Becoming a disciple of Jesus is not as much about the amounts of time, talent, and treasure we have as it is about what we do with what we have.

• We want to hear, "well done, good and faithful servant".

 The best measure of our progress as a follower of Jesus (discipleship) is the degree to which I have been transformed into the image of Jesus.

 There is not a single life experience that cannot be used by God to shape us into ones who are like His Son.

 What I do will help to shape me, but what I am is what really counts.

• 24 "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. 25 I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' 26 "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, 27 why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' 28 "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. 30 Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Questions / Comments