



[Discipleship]

Scott Foster, a 36-year-old accountant, hadn't played a hockey game against serious competition in over a decade, but because of his background as a goalie for Western Michigan University, he'd been designated as an "emergency goalie," an honor that usually just results in free food in the press box for the NHL Chicago Blackhawks.

It wasn't Foster's first time in the role, but when both goalies were injured, Foster was called into service. He literally walked down from the stands, put on his gear, and took to the ice.

"The initial shock happened when I had to dress and then I think you just kind of black out after that," Foster said. "I don't think I heard anything other than 'Put your helmet on.'"

Whatever mental zone Foster entered as he took the ice, it was effective. He stopped all seven shots attempted, earned the team belt (an honor reserved for the game's best player), and set social media ablaze with tweets and posts from fans and analysts who could not believe he had never played professionally before.

"This is something that no one can ever take away from me," Foster said. "It's something that I can go home and tell my kids."

There is a major difference between being in the stands, eating your free snacks, and being in the game. On this rare occasion, Scott Foster lived both.

This is the final message in our Back to the start series: Discipleship 101 Getting back to the basics of our faith.

Sadly, many preach fandom decisions and neglect discipleship. We preach "make a decision" with the implication that **you can make a half-hearted emotional commitment** and still stay part of the crowd.

Jesus radically told a man from the crowd who wanted to follow: foxes have dens and birds have nests but the son of man has no where to lay his head (Matt. 8:21). In the next moment he told a man follow me, let the dead bury their own dead (Mt. 8:22). Jesus did not allow anyone to follow/not follow (Sorry/not sorry).

Decision is used in the NT 10 times Disciple 250+. Today's message is the final part of a series we called Back to the Basics. We put the exclamation point on the series with Discipleship 101.

Read [Matthew 10:24]

Disciples Have a Master (Matt 10:24-25)

After Jesus warns his followers that they will be hated by everyone because of His name, he then reminds his community that a disciple is not above his teacher or a slave his master. The word Master is critical.

Over and over again in the NT we find non-disciples using the word "teacher". Language reflects the inadequate understanding of one who is not a true disciple. *Master*—a word used only by disciples or near-disciples (Marshall).

Disciples call Jesus "master" or "Lord" because disciples (one who follows) have a master. Master= *he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; universally, of the possessor and disposer of a thing, the owner*

Disciples are owned by Jesus Christ. Does Jesus own you? Value-Direction-Protection

We find this tension occurring throughout the Scriptures, the juxtaposition between the crowds and the disciples. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus saw the crowds and after he sat down, His disciples came to him (Matt. 5:1). It was to a person in the crowd who asked to follow and Jesus said that the Son of man has no place to lay his head (Mt. 8:18).

Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What does this teach us? The overwhelming majority of the crowd are non-disciples. If this is true at the feet of Jesus, how much more is it true today? **The crowds are in it for them. Disciples have left all for Him.** Which one are you? Jesus speaking to the crowd cautions: **Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Crowd or Christ?**

This is not the only dualistic tension in scripture. We have another group who are not part of the crowds, and yet, they can't get over the disciples. They were known by the name Pharisees.

Pharisees were most likely lay experts (not priestly) in the law. They brokered power between the aristocracy and the masses and promoted living tradition in addition to the Word. Highly interested in tithing and ritual purity.

The Pharisees had great concerns and asked questions like: why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners (Mt 9:11), Jesus casts out the demons by the ruler of demons (Mt. 9:34), and your disciples are doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath (Mt. 12:2).

The crowds were only willing to follow when it was comfortable, convenient or beneficial. The Pharisees refused to become disciples because they were **unwilling to give away power**. Even more dangerous, they used **religious language and devotion to cover their sin**.

Disciples have a Master. Disciples call him Lord. Disciples live under his Lordship.

Disciples Have Meaningful Commitment (1 Thess. 2:8)

Growth in Christ does not happen by accident, laziness, or even age. **Disciples have meaningful commitment.** Said another way: **Intentionality**. Paul's language: Life Shared w/ one another and Jesus.

Costly grace is a treasure hidden in a field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. –Bonhoeffer

We see over and over again in the NT that true disciples were defined by their closeness to Jesus Christ and one another. Often we see the Lord going away from the crowds with his disciples. Meaningful commitment. Never underestimate time spent with the Savior.

Keeping nothing back (Life Shared). Peter exclaimed Matt. 19:27 Then Peter responded to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you. So what will there be for us?"

Not perfect. Matt. 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "*Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.*"

Matt. 19:25 When the disciples heard this, they were utterly astonished and asked, “Then who can be saved?”

Matt. 28:17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted.

Growing in the grace of Christ will never happen unless you are meaningfully committed. Gospel- own lives. What is your commitment to Christ? Are you flourishing in relationship? Are you all in?

Are you intentionally (Pathway Picture):

Regular Worship- Life Group- D Group- Missions. (Discipleship Pathway Picture)

Disciples have a Mandate (Matt. 28:19)

Disciples are not content to sit and soak. They are not content to sit on their blessed assurances. We must take seriously the Lord (our owner’s) mandate to GO!

The word Go (**πορεύομαι**) means to move from one place to another with the possibility of **continuity** and **distance**. The Lord created you to move (go) and not be **stationary**. (Miracle League- LG helping a family-

Hi there, Some of your church members saw my friend ---desperately moving her son from the car up the stairs into the house in his wheelchair. To my friend's surprise your church members showed up and asked if it would be ok if they built her a ramp. She could NOT believe that people would do this for a non church member.

The most difficult part of going for Christ is not the cognitive ability to understand the mission. It is not the desire to pray more and ask God to stir your heart and affections for him.

The most difficult part is the **first step**. Most don’t sit still because of fear, or failure, or even lack of desire. We sit still because the **start is most** difficult. **If you have even driven a manual car you know getting into 1st gear and not killing the engine is tricky**. What step of faith is the Lord asking you to take today? Go! Move!

Conclusion

Disciples don’t just happen- they are Made.

Disciples have meaningful commitment

Disciples have a Mandate

Disciples have a Master

Are you part of the crowd? Matt. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ 23 Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’

What is God’s desire for your life?

9 I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

Notes

Our Model

Illustrations

In his book about famous sports team captains titled *The Captain Class*, Sam Walker examines the hidden forces that create the world's greatest sports teams. Here's one of his surprising findings about one of the

Application

90% of

This is the powerful gospel truth of servanthood. There is something about serving the Master and His kingdom that renews within you the mind of Christ. Its as if setting your mind to serve the Lord guards your mind from everything else.

What are you adopting? What form are you taking? What is the outward expression of your inward nature. Not serving the Kingdom? Do you have the nature of The servant?