

Purposeful Discipleship (John 1:29-42)

I. Discipleship Begins with Christ's Identity (29-33)

- A. John Testifies to Jesus as God's Lamb (29)
 - a. The Lamb is a common OT reference
 - 1. It symbolizes sacrifice and atonement
 - 2. Jesus is God's lamb – the ultimate sacrifice
 - 3. John shows that this lamb takes the world's sin away. – Not just the nation of Israel
 - b. The beginning of discipleship is understanding the atoning work of Christ and being converted.
 - 1. Belief in Jesus as complete payment and Lord of one's life – begins the walk of a disciple
- B. John Testifies to make Christ known (30-32)
 - a. The disciple Shows Christ through His Calling (30-31)
 - 1. John introduces the people to Jesus (30)
 - a. This is the one I was talking about
 - b. This one existed before me
 - i. He is teaching of Jesus eternal nature
 - 2. John's ministry was to make him known (31)
 - a. John came baptizing in order to point to him
 - b. Discipleship points all things to Christ
 - i. Discipleship is not learning rules
 - ii. Discipleship is not learning principles
 - iii. Discipleship is not just gaining knowledge
 - iv. Discipleship is deepening knowledge of Christ
 - c. John baptized not to teach lessons but to point to a person – Jesus Christ
 - 3. Every disciple shows Christ where God has called him
 - b. The disciple Shows Christ through God's Word (32-34)
 - 1. John testified to Christ based on God's Word
 - a. John did not testify based on his own knowledge
 - i. He said, "I saw the Spirit descend on Him"
 - ii. He said, "I did not recognize Him"
 - iii. John did not rely on his own knowledge and understanding
 - b. John testified based on what God told Him
 - i. The one who sent John told Him how He would be recognized
 - ii. John trusted the word rather than his own understandings
 - c. John trusted what God told him about Jesus

2. The Disciple shows Christ based on what Scripture says about Him
 - a. This doesn't preclude giving a personal testimony
 - b. The personal testimony is only valid as it conforms to what God has said about Himself
 - c. For example – a personal testimony tells of what Jesus has done for one personally but becomes inaccurate if it explains Christ's identity differently than God's Word
 3. John then testifies based on his experience (34)
 - a. "I myself have seen and testify"
- II. Discipleship Culminates in a life of (35-42)
- A. Disciples Show Christ in Every Setting (35-36)
 - a. John did not just stand in public proclaiming Jesus
 - b. John showed Christ in personal settings as well
 1. Disciples make disciples by becoming intimately involved in their lives
 2. Disciple making is not just teaching – it is mentoring in love
 3. John makes the same testimony to two men as he did to the entire crowd
 4. John's whole life testified to Jesus
 - c. John pushed his disciples to follow Jesus
 1. Disciple makers don't pull followers to themselves
 2. Disciple makers cultivate followers to Christ
 - B. Disciples Desire Christ (37-39)
 - a. Jesus questions the disciple's motives (37-38a)
 1. Two of John's disciples begin following Jesus (37)
 - a. John decreases as Jesus increases
 - b. Disciples turn their charges over to Christ
 2. Jesus questions the disciple's decision (38a)
 - a. What do you want?
 - b. Many come for religious reasons
 - c. Many come for what they can receive
 - i. Jews believed they would rule over enemies
 - ii. Jews believed they would be free from oppression
 - d. Many come for the benefits of God
 - i. Blessing, honor, favor, material things
 - b. The Disciple's motives are centered on Christ (38b-39)
 1. Disciples desire to be taught of Christ (38b)
 - a. They called him Rabbi which means teacher
 - b. They present themselves under his authority
 - c. They desire to be taught

- d. They reject their own knowledge and sufficiency
 - i. Today many come to Christ but don't submit to Him
 - ii. They come for benefits and blessings
 - iii. They don't come to be changed
 - iv. They don't come to be His servant
 - v. They don't come to be His disciple
 - 2. Disciples desire to abide with Christ (39)
 - a. They want to go with Him wherever He is going
 - b. They no longer desire their own way
 - c. They want to be where He is
 - d. They want to stay with Him at all times
 - i. Today they love fellowship with Him
 - ii. Believers desire to be with Him
 - iii. Disciples enjoy and crave fellowship with Christ
- C. Disciples Take Up the Mission of Christ (40-42)
 - a. Disciples go out to make disciples (40-41)
 - 1. Andrew seeks out Simon and shares the message (40-41)
 - a. He goes first to his own brother
 - i. Disciples begin in their own circle of influence
 - ii. Even new disciples spread the message they have received
 - iii. Andrew may not have had all knowledge but he knew they had found the messiah
 - b. He tells his brother the savior is here
 - 2. Andrew brings Simon to Christ (42)
 - a. He does not stop at simply telling about Christ
 - b. He brings Simon to Christ
 - i. This doesn't place the burden of Simon's faith on Andre
 - ii. This shows that Andrew became involved intimately in bringing Simon rather than simply telling and leaving
 - b. Jesus is the one who calls disciples
 - 1. Jesus changes Simon's name
 - 2. Simon's name will reflect his new identity in Christ
 - 3. Peter is no longer just the son of John – He is the follower of Christ.