

DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE

Sunday 4th September 2016

1: Discipleship – this is where it begins.



Small group notes:

As you meet together, perhaps for the first time since the summer break – take time **not** to cover all the ground of the study...but connect together...share food...enjoy a relaxed time.

- Share your favourite summer memory...and why?
- When thinking about discipleship – what does the title, '**Dare to be a Disciple**' suggest to you?

Take time to pray that the series would be helpful and life changing. May we be able to face the challenges of discipleship in the 21st century as we look at Jesus and his call to discipleship in the 1st century.

1. THE CHALLENGE OF DISCIPLESHIP

The great commission is the core of discipleship – take the 'marching orders' of Jesus to his disciples and see what they have to say to us today. What does each writer emphasise?

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 16:15-16
- Luke 24:45-49
- John 20:21-23
- Acts 1:8

Alan spoke of the challenge of mission and evangelism when we have 94% of the UK who are not followers of Jesus. Does this increase our sense of responsibility?

2. THE CENTRE OF DISCIPLESHIP – Mark 1:1 Jesus is the Good News.

- Jesus is validated by John the Baptist, Mk 1.7; Jn 1.29.
- Jesus is validated by heaven – the vision of the Spirit descending and the voice from heaven that was heard, Mk 1.9-11.
- Jesus is validated by followers like Andrew who introduced his brother to Jesus, Jn 1.41-42.

3. THE COMMUNICATION OF DISCIPLESHIP – Mark 1:14-15

Jesus proclaimed a very different kind of good news.

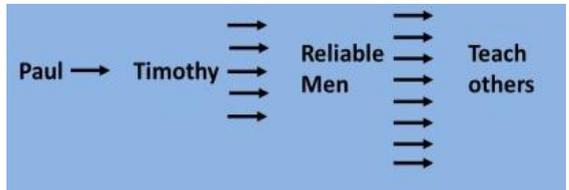
There are four key characteristics brought out by Jesus in his communication of discipleship.

What response is Jesus looking for?

There is the challenge of being a follower of Jesus – there are those who were fans of Jesus but also those who were faithful followers. How do you see the difference? Is it possible to be a follower of Jesus without being a disciple?

The power of discipleship runs throughout scripture.

2 Timothy 2:2 offers us an illustration of the power of discipleship – Paul



encourages Timothy to deposit discipleship principles into the lives of others who were committed to following Christ who in turn would teach others. This is how discipleship is multiplied!

We are called to disciple others. How should we go about it? Have you ever had a person who specifically disciplined you?