

DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE – Sunday 11th Sept 2016

2: Selection – People were the master's method.



Small group notes:

As you open up your time together with some worship and thanksgiving – taking the theme of discipleship....

- Share together about a person who has 'discipled' you in a formative period of your Christian life.
- The theme is SELECTION...and it is a word that perhaps brings images of being selected or not selected yourself...selection for a school team...selection when you applied for a particular job. How is Jesus' 'selection' process different?

1. SELECTION – Jesus NOTICES those with a spiritual hunger.

Many of those who became followers of Jesus were originally stirred by the prophetic preaching of John the Baptist and were followers of the Baptist. Take a few moments maybe to look at Philip and Nathanael's spiritual hunger.

- The hunger of Andrew Jn 1.37 and the hunger of Simon Peter Jn 1.42
- The hunger of Philip Jn 1.43
- The hunger of Nathanael Jn 1.45ff

Jesus calls their name and invites them to *follow*.

- How can we recognise the signs that we are no longer spiritually hungry?
How would you help a person who expressed their lack of spiritual enthusiasm?
- In thinking about the challenge of evangelism – we see Andrew telling Simon Peter and Philip telling Nathanael - who do we need to pray for in our own circle of contacts?
- Think about the 'selection process' for our relationship with Jesus that is expressed in Jn 15.16
'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.'

2. SELECTION – Jesus NURTURES relationship through friendship.

The relationship was nurtured through regular contact – grounded in friendship.

Alan used the experience of Jesus using Simon's boat as a preaching platform and then saying to him *put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.* (Luke 5.1-11)

- How do you think Simon was impacted by Jesus using his boat to speak to the crowd let alone having a hands on experience of a miracle with the abundance of fish caught with such ease?
- Why did Simon sense his sinfulness *Go away from me Lord for I am a sinful man?*

Once again we see the link of discipleship with the command to go... *then Jesus said to Simon, don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.*

3. SELECTION – Jesus NOMINATES his team of twelve

The final selection of the twelve took place probably 18mths into the 3 year ministry of Jesus.

- Think about the huge risk that Jesus took with these twelve!
Why do you think Jesus had no plan B?

Marks of being a disciple:

Willing to be a follower, to be different, to be teachable, to be stretched, to be obedient, to be wholehearted.

- What other marks would you add to this list?