

DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE

Sunday 18th September 2016



3: Selection – Association – Jesus shared his life with his disciples

Small group notes:

You are in a small group – Jesus had a small group around him....

- Is there any way we can make sure Jesus is a key member of our small group?
- The theme this week is **ASSOCIATION**. This is not the loose casual approach with people where we have a passing link. You can be associated with a person in a particular interest group, and not know their name! We are talking about a deep association that goes far beyond casual acquaintance to the sharing of life. There were times when Jesus was criticised for associating with the wrong kind of people. The religious leaders of Jesus' day were often scandalised by his behaviour as he challenged the social boundaries accepted by so many!
- In what way would you see 'discipleship' as an invitation to 'risky living?'

1. ASSOCIATION – The call to BE WITH JESUS (not just to do for Jesus).

The key verse is **Mark 3.14** *He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach*

- What do you think Jesus was looking for from his disciples when he spoke of being with him?
- There is the example of **Martha & Mary** in Luke 10.38-42 that offers two very different personalities as sisters impacting how they related to Jesus.
- What lessons do we learn from what Jesus says to both of them on this occasion? In what way does our personality affect our response to Jesus' call to be with him?

The disciples were Jesus' spiritual children and he wanted to spend time with them; he enjoyed their company.

- How do you face the challenge of being with Jesus and not just doing work for Jesus?

What have you found helpful that has encouraged you to enjoy being with Jesus?

2. ASSOCIATION – Jesus calls us to a LIFE RELATIONSHIP

Juan Carlos Ortiz 'Discipleship is not a communication of knowledge or information. It is a communication of life. Jesus was concerned with formation not information.'

Matthew 11.28-29 is a great verse. Note the call to ***come to me....learn from me.*** The call of Jesus was to a life relationship and not a rule based relationship. Why do you think that we too often prefer a rule based life even when we know a life based relationship filled with grace is so much better?

The Message version - "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you."

- What do you think Petersen sees as the '*unforced rhythms of grace*' – it sounds good but what does it mean?

3. ASSOCIATION – Jesus calls us to LIFE-LONG LEARNING

The call to be a disciple is likened to the APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING. What are some of the characteristics of apprenticeship that have a parallel with the Jesus principles of discipleship?

Eugene Petersen 'We are a people who spend our lives apprenticed to our master, Jesus Christ. We are in a growing, learning relationship, always.'

- Jesus taught lessons through everyday experiences: Storm on the Lake Matt 8.23-27; Feeding of 5,000 Jn 6:1-13; Passover Supper Jn 13.12
Look at one of these or some other event and discover the lessons that the apprentices learnt from Jesus.
- How do you maintain your own life-long learning as a disciple of Jesus? Even when the disciples failed him when he needed them most, he still sought out their company.