

# SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 16.03.25

**PREACHER: PS ADAM DODDS**

**JESUS'S AIM FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

## BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]*

*[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]*

**Conviction of a Disciple:** As we journey in our growth into Christlikeness, we become more formed into the image of Christ, aligning our lives with him as his students, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us.

### OVERVIEW

Jesus' goal is not just that we are saved for eternity, but that we are transformed—that we become like him here and now. As his disciples (students), we are called to align our lives with his, seeking what he seeks so that his kingdom comes in partnership with his church.

### ACTION

**Step 1:** Reflect: When you reflect on your main targets in life - what you spend most of your energies working toward - how closely do they align with what Jesus is aiming at in you?

**Step 2:** Commit: Christ's goal is to form us into His image bearers here on the earth, what areas of your life still resist that transformation?

**Step 3:** Act: What is one way you will intentionally abide in Christ this week—whether through prayer, Scripture, or in setting aside time to commune with God in relationships of faith—so that the Spirit has space to work in you?

# THOUGHT

**SCRIPTURE:** GALATIANS 4:19; ROMANS 8:29; JOHN 15:4-5

We can hit an absolute bullseye in life but aim at the wrong target.

The question is: What are we aiming at? What are we actually seeking? Money? Experiences? Security? A perfectly curated life? Many of us spend years—or even lifetimes—pursuing things that promise fulfillment but leave us restless. So maybe the best question isn't "What am I aiming at in life?" but "What is Jesus aiming at in my life?"

The gospels suggest that Jesus' aim is clear: for us to enter into his kingdom and become his disciples so we would become like him.

The word disciple simply means student, and the goal of any student is to become like their teacher. Jesus didn't come just to save us; He came to transform us. Salvation is the doorway, but the goal is Christlikeness. To stop at salvation would be like buying a house but only living in the entryway. The real invitation is to move in—to make His way of life our way of life.

Paul echoes this in Galatians 4:19 when he writes to believers, saying, "I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you." They were already Christians, but Paul longed for something deeper: that Christ's very nature would take shape within them.

This isn't just about moral improvement or religious activity. It's about transformation. Romans 8:29 tells us that God has always purposed to form us into the image of Christ. This is the life we were created for. And here's the secret: the Christlike life is the satisfied life. The life of abiding in Him is the life that truly bears fruit (John 15:4-5).

But how does this transformation actually happen?

It's the Holy Spirit's work to make us like Jesus, but our role is to remain in Him. We do this through prayer, through Scripture, through deep fellowship with the community of faith. These aren't religious checklists; they are pathways of abiding—ways of keeping our hearts open to the Spirit's work.

One of the simplest, yet most challenging, questions we can ask ourselves is this: Would the people closest to me say that I resemble Christ?

We are all being shaped by something. The world has its own discipleship programme—forming us in the image of consumerism, self-preservation, and success. But Jesus offers a different way. A better way. The way of true life.

*The question is: Whose student will we be?*

# DISCUSSION

*[A GROUP REFLECTION]*

1. Many people settle for salvation as the goal rather than transformation. Why do you think this happens? How does it limit the life Jesus intends for us?
2. Paul describes Christ being formed in us (Galatians 4:19). What does this process look like in real life? How do we recognise it happening? How do we cooperate with this work? How do we resist it?
3. Can those closest to us see the resemblance of Christ in our lives? How can we encourage one another to become true apprentices of Jesus?

# PRAYER

Lord,

We don't want to settle for less than the life you have for us. Shape us into your image. Teach us to abide in you, to seek what you seek, and to open our hearts to the Spirit's work. May our lives reflect you more and more, so that your kingdom comes through us.

Amen.