

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 27.10.25

PREACHER: REV ADAM DODDS

Life-on-Life Discipleship and Christlikeness

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & **DOING [BODY]***
[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple does not merely learn about Jesus but learns from Jesus—sharing both truth and life with others so that His likeness multiplies through us.

OVERVIEW

Jesus' invitation to "come and follow" is not to learn in a classroom, but commit to a way of life. He forms us through apprenticeship—life to life, heart to heart—so that, in time, we begin to live and respond as He would. Like Paul, who shared not only the gospel but his whole life, we are called to pour ourselves into a few, trusting that depth will multiply to reach the many.

ACTION

Step 1: Who has God placed in your life that you could invest in through intentional discipleship?

Step 2: What practices or rhythms might need to shift so that you can make space for this?

Step 3: How can you share the gospel through your life this week?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 2:7–12; Luke 6:40; Matthew 11:28–30

Discipleship isn't built through programs—it's built in proximity. Jesus formed his disciples through long walks, shared meals, quiet prayers, and hard questions—oftentimes even leaving them unanswered. His method was his message: follow me, and I will make you into who are meant to be.

The invitation is the same for us. We are not students collecting information about Jesus; we are apprentices learning to live in his way. And the way of Jesus doesn't sit, gazing at him, but always shifts our gaze toward others. His heart is cultivated in us as we learn to pour ours out.

Paul captures this beautifully in his words to the Thessalonians: “We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” The gospel, in other words, travels best through the channel of relationship. Truth without personal presence is incomplete. Presence without love is hollow. But when we share both, Christ takes shape in us and in those around us.

This is slow work—like parenting, gardening, or learning a sport or and art form. And it costs us. It costs us in time, attention, and vulnerability. Yet this is the way Jesus changes the world: not through mass production, as impressive as “massive” can appear at times, but through the slow and steady work of person-to-person multiplication. He poured himself into twelve, so they would pour into others, and that is what has happened again and again. It will keep happening until his life and kingdom has filled the earth.

We live in an time that prizes efficiency over all things. But we *have to remember* that God's kingdom grows at the pace of relationship. We oftentimes must slow down to catch up with God. To disciple another person is to believe that transformation happens best in the soil of shared life. It's choosing to make time where there is none, to invest where there is no guarantee of return, trusting that the Spirit will form Christ in both the giver and the receiver.

Perhaps maturity shouldn't be measured by how much we know, but by who we're willing to walk alongside. To be like Jesus is to make space—for God, for one another, for the slow miracle of growth that happens when Truth becomes flesh and moves into our neighbourhood.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) What makes life-on-life discipleship challenging in our culture of hurry?
- 2) How might you create “relational space” for new or younger believers?
- 3) What does it look like to share not only the gospel, but your life?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You are our teacher and friend. Teach us to walk as you walked, to give as you gave, to love as you loved. Form in us a heart that makes room for others, and through our shared lives, let your life multiply among us.
Amen.