**Following Christ = Making Disciples**

**What is Discipleship (Philippians 3:7-11)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11)

Introduction

We are starting a new series called Following Christ = Making Disciples. Parents cannot impart to their children what they do not have. Discipleship starts at home. If we do not disciple our own children, the world will disciple them.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

The verse encapsulates relational modification. What we hear, we also pass it on. That is one of the five core habits of the church. What we learn from God, we must pass it on. What we build, we must build it to last. We do not build things, we build up people. The Lord Jesus Christ discipled 12. Out of the 12, 11 stayed on.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The core business of the church is always to make disciples. It is not to have good speakers, good training or good events. Discipleship will go from one generation to another. The problem with discipleship today is that we do not understand what discipleship is. Many Christians claim to be Christians do not follow Jesus. They do not reproduce themselves. Rather, it’s about what is in for them.

In his book, the Scandal of the Evangelical Mind, Ronald Sider said that the Gallop and Barna polls demonstrated that evangelical Christians are every bit as likely to embrace lifestyles as hedonistic (pleasure-seeking), materialistic, self-centred, sexually immoral as the world is in general. There are more divorces among the Christians than non-Christians in America. Sexual promiscuity among evangelical youths are just a little bit less outrageous than their non-evangelical peers. In other words, we Christians are not that much different from the world. This shows there is something wrong with discipleship. Christians are not drawing people to Christ.

Pastor Chris prayed that we will not build a feel-good, self-centred, consumeristic church. We do not want to have people coming to the church to ask what is in for them and to choose what they want. We want the church to be a Christ-centred, disciple-making, multiplying church. We want people to come because they love Christ, because they want to be a blessing.



What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?

# To Know Him

Paul said he wanted to know Christ. The failure of discipleship and the failure of the modern Christianity is that we failed to present the full gospel. We present the love of God but not His holiness, His mercy but not His justice, His blessings but the demands of godly living. We relegated this whole born-again experience to a simple prayer of acceptance without the need of repentance. After saying that prayer, we go back to our old lifestyle. Increasingly in this nation, it is getting harder to become a Christian.

Often, we serve out of convenience instead of conviction. We want to build a church on fire for Jesus. That is why we need to know Jesus, the full Jesus. We cannot pick and choose what we like. We need to read the Bible from cover to cover. We need to read the whole counsel of God. Do we actually know Jesus or do we just know about Jesus?

Paul was willing to give up everything to know Christ. Not only do we need to know Christ, we need to be known by Christ. In any relationship, we must be willing to be known. God knows everything about us. We need to make a choice to be known by God.

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ (Matthew 7:21-23)

This is a sobering passage. There must be a willingness to forsake everything to follow Christ. How do we know Christ?

# To be with Him

We know Christ by being with Him. The call of a Christian is not just about attending church. In Acts 3:8, the lame beggar started jumping after he was healed. Peter took the opportunity to preach. We read that Peter and John was put in jail and they were brought before the Sanhedrin.

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

The religious people looked at Peter and John and concluded they had been with Jesus. The key to discipleship is to be with Jesus. Doing things for Jesus should be a result of being with Jesus. We could do a lot of things without knowing Jesus.

There is no shortcut to be with Jesus. We need to spend time regularly with Him. We need discipline. The essence of discipleship is that we need to experience God. The heart of discipleship is relationship. That is the problem for most of us. We do not have time. There is no secret to it. We just have to make time.

We all want to be effective and efficient. We do not want to waste time. However, we are all called to ‘waste’ time with God no matter how busy we are.

As a Senior Pastor, Pastor Chris thinks the best thing he can give to DUMC is to ‘waste’ time with God. By doing so, he hears the voice of God.

What does being with Him mean to us? Once we know him and be with him, the result is that we become more like Him.

# To be Like Him

The religious people knew that Peter and John had been with Jesus because they saw Jesus in them. When someone has been with Jesus, people can tell. The disciples spend three years with Jesus. When we spend enough time with Jesus, our worldview is replaced with Jesus’.

We can remain calm when we have the peace of God in us.

Apostle Paul said, “Death, where is your sting?” That is the confidence we have in Christ, that we will one day all meet in heaven.

Sometimes we pray for God’s answer when the answer is already clear. When we know Jesus, we know the answers to many questions.



Sermon summary contributed by Loong.

Prayer points contributed by May.

Special #ServePeople announcement

DUMC has started the #ServePeople initiative, please

visit the following website to get more information.

<http://dumc.my/servepeople/>

Be sure to get the [30-day #ServePeople Guide](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxru5HA_eQ4uUWx3R2t5LURrREk/view).

Click the image on the right to see the [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT5s79dgw7w&list=PLKyjhhBQ5v_XOFGh6-lNLnEU6E7eDAx2D).



**SERMON: What is Discipleship?**

**Pray:**

* Hearts transform from knowing the Lord, not just behavior modification.
* Intentional in seeking to spend time with the Lord.
* Righteous desire to know and to be with God.
* Christ-likeness to be the heart’s desire of many.
* Discipleship to take place in every situation and circumstance.
* Loving heart of the Father to be revealed.

*“But Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS:  LEAD2017**

*The LEAD2017 Conference is scheduled to be held in Dream Centre from 1 - 3 June 2017*

**Pray:**

* More people to sign up for this conference as well as to encourage others to attend.
* Smooth preparation in all aspects, including logistics, administration, plenary sessions, workshops, etc.
* Journey mercies for all traveling to the conference, including delegates, servers, speakers, etc.
* God to speak clearly to the speakers in their plenary and workshop sessions.
* Wisdom for everyone involved in LEAD2017.
* Touching of hearts and lives for all including delegates, servers, speakers
* More to come to know the Lord as their personal Lord and Saviour from the conference.
* More pre-believers will be encouraged to attend the night sessions.
* Many will be encouraged to sign up for LEAD 2018.

*“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (1 Thessalonians 5:14)*

**MALAYSIA MY NATION:  Religious tolerance in Malaysia**

*A Malaysian university lecturer has lodged a police report against a local Christian assemblywoman for proselytising by making Christian references in her book, documenting her personal journey, which was published 3 years ago..*

**Pray:**

* Cool heads and religious tolerance to prevail in Malaysia.
* Wisdom, maturity, and sensitivity in dealing with such situations.
* Steadfastness of faith in Jesus for Christians in times like this.
* God to reveal Himself to parties who doubt His existence.
* Boldness to proclaim that Jesus is Lord of all.
* Touching of hearts in those yet to believe in Jesus.

*for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”  (Romans 10:13)*

**A TRANSFORMED WORLD:  North Korean nuclear threat**

*North Korea has been testing its nuclear missiles, posing threats to the international community.*

**Pray:**

* Love and world peace to permeate all countries in this world.
* International authorities to act righteously in dealing with such conflicts.
* Softening of the hearts of the North Koreans in wanting to engage in war.
* Disarmament of all nuclear weapons around the world.
* Great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in North Korea to touch the hearts of the leaders.

*Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)*