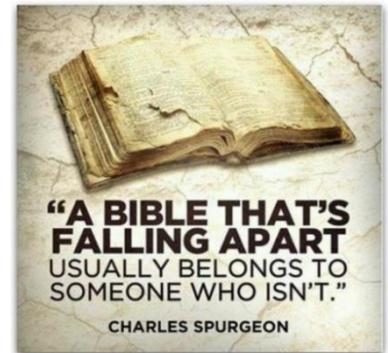




Mar.25-31, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP *Responding to Jesus' Call*

DISCIPLESHIP- what is it, and what does it mean? Some of our traditional ways of understanding discipleship are only partially correct. When some hear the term discipleship they often think of some kind of Bible study curriculum. On taking the disciples on this journey of discipleship, did Jesus sit down to teach his disciples with a pile of Bible study curriculum and say, "Well I've only got three years with you and over that time we will work our way through this discipleship training manual"? No, we know that one of the key elements to making the process work was his insistence of having them continually with him (Mk.3:14). They not only heard his words but experienced his works and his ways as well.

Monday

Matthew 4:17-22 (DLNT)

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to proclaim and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn-near".

¹⁸ And while walking beside the Sea of Galilee He saw two brothers— Simon (the *one* being called Peter) and Andrew, his brother— throwing a casting-net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And He says to them, "Come after Me and I will make you fishermen of people". ²⁰ And immediately the *ones*, having left the nets, followed Him. ²¹ And having gone on from there He saw two other brothers— James (the *son of* Zebedee) and John, his brother— preparing their nets in the boat with Zebedee their father. And He called them. ²² And immediately the *ones*, having left the boat and their father, followed Him.

Reflect: Discipleship can best be defined by the very literal translation to form the word "Come after me" in verse 19. An 'in-tune' disciple is one who *comes after* Jesus wherever he goes. They are sensitive to his movements- to his working in this world and they respond accordingly.

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

Reflect: A disciple of Christ is one who imitates Christ. That is why Paul could say “be imitators of me” because he imitated Christ (1 Cor.11:1). Paul wanted to lead the Corinthians on in the discipleship process, so he sent Timothy whom he had discipled. Discipleship is a multiplication process.

Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 (NLT)

²We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. ³As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. ⁵For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you. ⁶So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. ⁷As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

⁸And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it, ⁹for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. ¹⁰And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

Reflect: A mark of a healthy Christian and a healthy church is their ability to reproduce Christ's life in others as they work hand in hand with the Holy Spirit. Pray that we may live the kind of lives that will cause “the word of the Lord to [ring] out from [us] to people everywhere.”

Thursday

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

²⁸⁻³⁰ “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. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Reflect: The first step of discipleship is to come to Jesus and throw our lives at his feet. To be willing to trust and learn from him.

Friday

Mark 3:13-19 (MSG)

¹³⁻¹⁹ He climbed a mountain and invited those he wanted with him. They climbed together. He settled on twelve, and designated them apostles. The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word and give them authority to banish demons. These are the Twelve:

Simon (Jesus later named him Peter, meaning “Rock”),

James, son of Zebedee,

John, brother of James (Jesus nicknamed the Zebedee brothers Boanerges, meaning “Sons of Thunder”),

Andrew,

Philip,
Bartholomew,
Matthew,
Thomas,
James, son of Alphaeus,
Thaddaeus,
Simon the Canaanite,
Judas Iscariot (who betrayed him).

Reflect: The primary reason for Jesus' selection of the twelve was "that they would be with him". As we walk *with* the Lord, he is able to lead us, teach us and mould us.

Saturday

Luke 5:27-32 (NLT)

²⁷ Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. ²⁸ So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

²⁹ Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honour. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with such scum?"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. ³² I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."

Reflect: Levi is the one whom we know as Matthew- the writer of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus called a very mixed and unlikely bunch of rag-tags to follow him. It was never about status or pedigree with Jesus- never has been and never will be. Jesus was simply looking for devoted followers. He still is.

Sunday

Matthew 4:19 (DLNT)

¹⁹ And He says *to* them, "Come after Me and I will make you fishermen *of* people".

Matthew 28:19 (DLNT)

¹⁹ Therefore having gone, make-disciples-of all the nations, baptizing them in the name *of* the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Reflect: The process of being made into disciple-makers and disciple-making are simultaneous. We are not commanded to go- for we go anyway. The commandment, Jesus final words before he left the earth, was that we must make disciples.