

be like Jesus

Luke 7

Acts 1

modern discipleship focus

- Read your Bible more
 - Reading your bible is the most important spiritual discipline you can engage in.
 - God will speak to you more in your Bible reading than any other way.
- Pray more.
 - Praying is the most important spiritual discipline you can engage in.

modern discipleship focus

- Be more like Jesus.
 - Luke 6:40: *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*
- My own entry: Fasting.
- We will call these spiritual disciplines for the sake of this message.

modern discipleship

focus

- Conceptually – A+
- Practically – D+
- Hypothetically, if the Holy Spirit were to leave you, would your spiritual disciplines even be affected?

why we fail

- We separate spiritual disciplines from the Spirit Himself.
- Reading the Bible: We have made it about reading words rather than encountering the living God.
- Prayer: We have made it a one-way conversation with a lot of vomit.
- Fasting: We do not understand the need to fast or how to begin fasting.

luke 7:14–23:

Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

luke 7:14–23:

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.

luke 7:14–23:

And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

acts 1:1–2:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

why we fail

- Being like Jesus: Because we have reduced it to being like Him only in character.
- Being like Jesus means to be like Him in character and in action.
 - *Luke 6:40: A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*
- We fail because we only focus on the character of Jesus and strive to be like Him by our own power.

be like Jesus

- If we take the Holy Spirit out of discipleship then we will not get both sides of Jesus, character and power.
- Jesus said that it was best for us as believers that He would leave so that we would have the Spirit.
- The Spirit gives us Jesus's character.
 - **Galatians 5:22–23:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

be like Jesus

- The Spirit gives us access to the power Jesus walked in as well.
 - The gifts of the Spirit.
 - The ones closer to our natural abilities that the Spirit empowers.
 - The power gifts of 1 Corinthians 12-14.
- But both character and power are predicated on one thing: love.

like their teacher

- *Luke 7:18–20: The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’”*
- John wants some reassurance from Jesus that He is in fact the Messiah.

show and tell

- Show

- *Luke 7:21: In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.*

- And tell

- *Luke 7:22: And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.*

acts 1:1–2:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

show and tell

- Acts 2:22–24: “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that **God did through him** in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

show and tell

Acts 3:6–10: But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

show and tell

Acts 3:11–12: While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"

show and tell

Acts 4:8–12: Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

show and tell

Acts 5:12–16: Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

show and tell

Acts 8:4–8: Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

show and tell

Acts 13:8–12: But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

show and tell

Acts 14:1–4: Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

what is happening?

- The apostles and other believers are carrying on the mandate from Jesus to preach the gospel.
- And they are doing it the same way that Jesus did.
- Acts is not the transitional book for the church.
 - The gospels are the transitional books for the church.

transition

- The gospels represent the story of how Jesus is changing things for anyone who would follow Him.
 - Takes the Kingdom of God from a fixed land (Israel) and takes it to the world (Acts 1).
 - Takes God's people from law to grace.
 - Takes the presence and power of God from among them, to now being in them.
- The book of Acts simply tells of the Christian life that is possible to live.

what i am not saying

- If you have never spoke in tongues, prayed and seen someone healed, or gotten a word of knowledge for someone that you are an inferior Christian.
- That using a gift of teaching or administration is somehow less important than using a “power” gift.

what i am saying

- Living like Jesus in character and action is possible for the Christian.

where to start

- When Jesus wanted to welcome people into the reality of the Kingdom, He told them to start with repentance.
 - *Mark 1:14–15: Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*
- Repentance is a continuing action.
 - “The Christians who has stopped repenting, has stopped growing.” --A.W. Pink

where to start

- Believe that Christ loves you, calls you His child, and has the best for you.
 - This is your identity in Christ.

- Do what Jesus tells you to do.
 - Not out of some religious obligation but for the sheer joy and awe we are flooded with when we live our lives for Him.

true discipleship

- You can see the character of Jesus (fruit of the Spirit) grow in you.
 - Walk in the spiritual disciplines.
 - Deal with your junk.
- You can also see the power of Jesus (gifts of the Spirit) grow in you.
 - Pursue them.
 - Be available.

reflection

- Who are you?
- If Jesus lived His life not only preaching the gospel but showing the reality of the Kingdom of God, shouldn't we do the same?
- What would it look like if you truly desired to be like our master in every way possible? Both word and action?