

Disciples making Disciples

Recap: Series called "Ascend:

- Using the primary image of a mountain
- Bottom of the mountain is 'basecamp' and a lower-level of experiencing God
- Top of the mountain (the SUMMIT) is the maximum amount we can experience God in this life - it's much greater than most people recognize or realize
 - **WE determine how close to God we will be, not God. God has made a way for everyone to be close to Him as they truly desire to be. If you seek Me, you will find Me. If you draw near to Me, I will draw near to you.' If desire to be close to the Lord badly, one will give themselves fully to that end and lay aside anything that hinders intimacy with the Lord. We have what we seek.**
- Fact= there is MORE of God we can experience in this life - don't settle for less
- God's love language is OBEDIENCE (can't ascend in friendship without obedience)

Tension:

- *Concluding the Ascend series - on the 'Final Ascent' and we believe that each person here, as we do, longs to grow in intimacy and closeness and dare we say 'friendship' with God (a.k.a ascend the mountain of God)*
 - *May not get as excited as we do about the need and possibility of growing in intimacy with God, but this notion of Jesus calling you friend is a big deal [o, that God would call us friend]*
- *You need to listen to this last message, because if you don't, guess what, you're not gonna make it*

John 15:15-21 (NIV)

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

- Reveals the possibility of growing closer to God, to the point of 'friend' [gk?]
 - Bible note: "a servant is simply an agent, doing what his master commands, and often not understanding his master's purpose. But Jesus takes his friends into his confidence and makes known to them what He has heard from the Father, and the purposes of God and the Kingdom"

- Big/Huge Deal- even if it doesn't seem like it at this moment in your walk with Jesus
 - Pinnacle moment for the Disciples... to be called friend

1. Philo - friend,, a companion

1. one of the bridegroom's friends who on his behalf asked the hand of the bride and rendered him various services in closing the marriage and celebrating the nuptials

We are Christ's friends - called to get ready the Bride, which is the Church

- God reveals hidden things to His friends
- God entrusts more of the Kingdom to His friends
- Flip side: God expects more out of His friends
 - Higher we are on the mountain, the narrower the path
- True friendship with God is obedience
- Something that we have said over and over this series

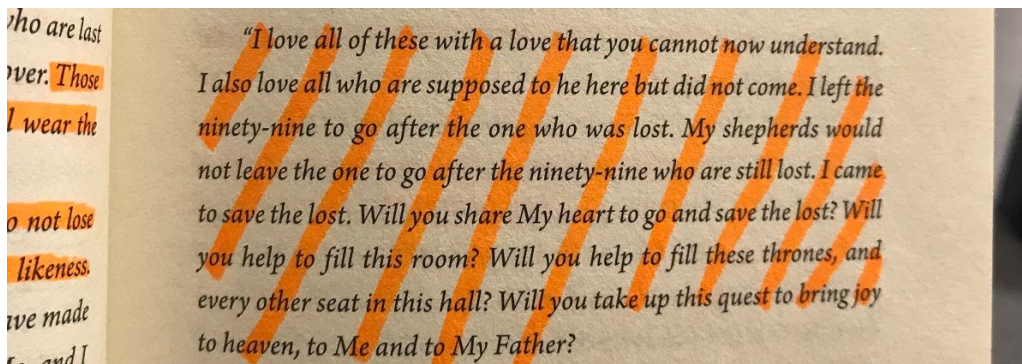
16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

- Chose us!!!!
- Appointed to bear fruit
 - Lasting fruit
 - Discipleship
 - We are to be disciples making disciples
 - **Worship Note:** We are to be disciples making disciples.
 - Get others 'up the mountain'
 - We need each other - can't do it alone
 - Hebrews 5:12-14 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you

the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- We gotta move from dependence to independence to 'interdependence'
 - Dependence= "Just not getting fed"
 - Independence= "I don't need the Church because it's me and Jesus"
 - Interdependence= I need you and you need me

- Can't stand above and yell down, must go where they are



17 This is my command: Love each other.

- Love God, Love Neighbor (BOOM)
 - 2 greatest commandments
 - Can't say we love God (friends with God) if we don't love others and help them to ascend, and can't say we're ascending in reality if we are not willing to help others
 - We're disciples making disciples and we're ascending, but

As we get closer to the top/summit and closer to God, more transformed into the image of the Son, things aren't going to get easier

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

- **Worship Note:** As you get higher life gets harder.
- And people will not understand you
 - Non-Christians will not understand you (the Cross is foolishness)
 - Lukewarm Christians will not understand you and may even oppose your efforts to do Kingdom stuff
 - John Wesley: "Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth."
 - The enemy REALLY HATES PEOPLE WHO ARE EARNESTLY TRYING TO ASCEND AND DOING THE WORK OF GOD YOU
 - The enemy understands what you're up to, and doesn't like it. The enemy hates you; wants to destroy you, wants to rip you apart and take you down...enemy knows a house divided cannot stand, so he distracts and divides and deceives God's people]
 - There is a battle going on
 - **Ephesians 6:12** New International Version (NIV)
 - **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- When Jesus is in his final ascent to the Cross, he shares these words with the Disciples:

20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

- You will be persecuted!
- WAKE UP!
- Friendship with the world means enmity with God!
 - Nothing leads to greater ascension than to share in Christ's suffering

Closing