

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
February 3, 2008 10:00 a.m.  
Acts 11:26  
Core Values #4

### “Called To Be a Disciple”

The first name for those who we are were “disciples.” It was not until Antioch that they were called Christians. Prior to that they were considered a cult and anti-religious establishment. And even when they were called “Christians” it was a slur or put down.

Being a follower of Jesus is still not cool. And if your version of being a Christian never causes a hardship or persecution or a “sticky” situation, then I don’t know what you are smoking, but its not Jesus.

A disciple is a follower. Our call is to follow a person – Jesus Christ. Pure and simple.

I. Jesus’ call is a call to follow Him.

Mark 3:13-15

The same is recorded in Matthew 10:1 “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him.”

To be a disciple of Jesus is to be with Him.

II. Jesus’ call is to follow Him as Lord.

Luke 14: 25-33

I spoke last week on the issue of Kingdom and Him being the King. We are His subjects and we follow Him no matter what He says.

You do not make Him Lord. He is Lord. And to be saved is to have him as the Lord.

There are not some who are called to follow more closely than others. There are not some who are permitted to go half-way or get cut a “special deal.”

1. Giving of yourself

Peter, Stephen, Paul and John were willing to give their life.

2. Giving of your relationships.

3. Giving of your dreams, goals, aspirations

III. Jesus’ call is to follow Him with a relationship before an assignment.

Matthew 4: 18-19 “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Jesus said to follow him and he would make them fishers of men.

“He did not command us to be fishers of men, He commanded us to follow him.”

A relationship comes before the assignment.

Its about being before doing.

Its about maturity before ministry.

Its about character before career.

IV. Jesus’ call is to follow Him to be a discipler yourself.

Help others come along the way you have come.

Disciple your children, grandchildren.

This is the greatest need we have. For the most part, we are not even reaching our own children as believers past children years.

If you are a leader, you are a discipler.

I Corinthians 11:1 “Follow me, just as I also follow Christ.”

V. Jesus’ call is to follow into a body, but don’t institutionalize your walk only.

Being a disciple is not an external drive, it’s a change from the inside out.

Andy Stanley in his book *Seven Practices of Effective Ministry* asked the question: “What does a win look like?” He had a good answer, but I disagree with what that win looks like it.

For me, as a pastor, a win does not have to do with a score, a budget, a baptism or good service.

A win looks like to me is when you are following Jesus.

“the health of your church is not just about numbers. It’s about the movement of people toward Christ, toward deep love for God and genuine love for others.”

VI. Jesus’ call is for life.

It is not something you graduate from here on earth.