

# Discipleship Displays God's People

I imagine all of us have watched a sit-com on TV.  
They are those half hour programs that try and make you laugh.  
Every once in a while there is a special program produced.  
The program strings together a bunch of scenes from earlier episodes.  
It doesn't take much work to do that.  
When it happens in the middle of a series you know something is wrong.  
Maybe a cast member is unavailable.  
Maybe someone is sick.  
Maybe they are over budget.  
Any number of reasons can contribute to that approach.  
I would be upset if I were a sponsor.  
I wouldn't want to pay all that money for a cut and paste show.  
Well this morning's sermon is sort of like that.  
I have excerpted some highlights from the last 5 sermons.  
At least I think they were highlights.  
It has been a series on what our discipleship displays about God.

In the first sermon we discovered **DISCIPLESHIP DISPLAYS GOD'S PRIORITIES.**

Jesus gave birth to the church.  
And He has continuously put out the call.  
All hands on deck!  
There is an emergency!  
People are dying and spending eternity in hell.  
They must be saved.  
They must be reached before it is too late.  
Get out into the harvest field and compel them to come in.  
Don't delay by inspecting your latest purchase.  
Don't wait around until your loved one needs burying.  
Don't wait until you have mastered the latest video game.  
Jesus calls His Church to all hands on deck.

In the second sermon we saw how **DISCIPLESHIP DISPLAYS GOD'S PASSION.**

This is what we learned from Acts 2.  
"When your faith is growing your understanding of God's call also grows.  
"Your eyes are opened to His Passion for you.  
"There are six things that bring growth.

## **1. WORSHIP**

Consistent worship is essential to growing in faith.

## **2. WITNESS**

Through our witness the Lord can add daily to the Church (Vs. 47).

## **3. WORK**

If you are going to grow in faith it requires involvement in ministry.

## **4. WARFARE**

The spiritual battles are fought and won through prayer.

## **5. WALK**

If you plan to grow in faith you must walk with God.

## **6. WELCOME**

They grew in faith because they broke bread together.

In the third sermon we saw how **DISCIPLESHIP DISPLAYS GOD'S PERSISTENCE**

Every generation has encountered a harvest that is ripe.  
And every generation repeats the same chapter of history.  
The harvest is ready, the workers are few.

Why am I too busy to stop and share Jesus with those in the harvest field?  
Jesus answers that question, it is the lack of prayer within the church.  
The Head and body have become severed.  
There is disconnect between us and Jesus.

We do not share the same passion because we do not pray.

The fourth sermon highlighted that **DISCIPLESHIP DISPLAYS GOD'S PARDON.**

Everyone is to be prepared to make a defense about our hope.

It isn't just the scholar, the highly educated, the learned.

It isn't only those who have spent a life time mastering Jesus.

It is those whose lives have been mastered by Jesus.

We are called to tell the world about Jesus.

To accomplish that requires 3 things.

**KEEP CHRIST CONSECRATED**

**KEEP YOUR CONSCIENCE CLEAR**

**KEEP CENTRED ON GOD'S WILL**

A few weeks ago we focused on how **DISCIPLESHIP DISPLAYS GOD'S PURPOSE**

God is in control and when we understand that, we leave nothing to chance.

God did not just hope that we stumble into salvation.

He prepared the way through Jesus.

We are intentional in sharing our faith.

We make excuses to let our light shine.

And we find creative ways to show Jesus' love to the world.

But none of this matters.

We can have purpose, pardon, passion, and persistence.

But it is all for nothing if we are not God's people who reach people.

**When we claim to love Jesus we love people.**

James describes the life that blesses God and fails to bless others.

**"From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. ... this ought not to be so."**

You are a spring that promises fresh water but only supplies worthless water.

We are weird.

A fig tree that yields olives, a grapevine that yields figs.

There is something wrong if fresh water comes out of salt water.

**What we profess must be matched by our deeds, our actions, our fruit.**

Don't boast about loving Jesus if you don't care enough to reach people.

Verses 17 and 18 speak about living with God's wisdom.

This is what they say in *The Message*.

**"Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor."**

**"The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."**

You received a sermon insert in your worship folder this morning.

It includes several very practical ways in which to reach people.

You will also notice that on it there is space for a few names.

That is for the names of people God has brought into your life that need Jesus.

People you have been praying for.

People who need to be cared for.

This is where the rubber meets the road.

Discipleship of Jesus is not a dead end.

If we are not willing to reach people something is wrong.

Our prayer life is wrong.

Our passion is wrong.

Our purpose is wrong.

When we claim Jesus' forgiveness we should have names on the card.

These are people for whom Jesus died on the cross. (Matthew 25:31-40)

I want you to look at your insert as a peace maker.

This is your plan to help someone else experience the peace of Jesus.  
How you do that is between you and God.

But one thing is certain; we need the Spirit's presence and power.  
We cannot be a consistent witness in our own strength and wisdom.

Let them see you celebrate God's work.

These are all ways of sharing God's love and spreading God's peace.

God wants His peace to reign in every heart.

God is out ahead of us and already working.

God is already dealing with the men, women, boys, and girls around you.

Are you ready to encounter those divine appointments?

Make peace.

Remember what Jesus said about peacemakers.

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."**

Closing Video - Breathing the Breath