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Fall Gospel Series

The Book of Mark

Questions

1. What are some characteristics of young Christians?
2. What are some characteristics of older Christians?

Simon Peter, Follow Me!

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him (Mark 1:16-20)

My Baptism/Calling!



Feeling Good with Jesus

Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

(Lk 18:39)

Follow at a Cost

- Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23)
- “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:26-27)

Who did it?

Who cut in on you and kept
you from obeying the truth?

(Gal 5:7)

Who?

- Spouse
- Child
- Family
- Leader
- Church Member
- Boss
- Relationship
- Friendship

What?

- Circumstances
- Life's Outcome (Expectations)
- Constant Struggles (money)
- Career
- Church's Condition
- Health
- Salvation +

Ourselves

- Forgiveness
- Hurts and Past
- Embarrassment
- Pride (Deceived)
- Laziness/Comfort
- Chronic Sin
- Fatigue
- Distractions/Focus
- Accused Mindset

Following at a Distance!

But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. (Matthew 26:56-58)

What happens when we follow at a distance?

- Trouble seeing Jesus
- Trouble hearing Jesus
- We hear other voices
- Easily Distracted/Tempted
- We can fall off/away
- “I can catch up”
- Not close to Jesus
- Get discourage

Satan: Distracts, Deceives & Detach!

We are creating and encouraging a culture of distraction where we are increasingly disconnected from the people and events around us, and increasingly unable to engage in long-form thinking. People now feel anxious when their brains are unstimulated.

Joe Kraus

Stumbling on the Small Stuff

Men stumble over pebbles,
never over mountains

(H. Emily Caye)

Distance creates Denial/Guilt!

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:69-75)

Which Peter am I?

Peter at a Distance

- Fearful
- Doubting
- Fall Away (Mt 26:31)
- Depressed/Guilt
- Non Confrontational
- Right Words (Never)
- No Effort to draw closer
- A Coward (Servant Girl)

Peter close to Jesus

- Faithful
- Walk on Water (See Miracles)
- Led the way!
- Confident
- Bold
- Conviction
- Went anywhere (Safe)
- The Rock

What do you do when you are Hurt?

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

(John 21:15,17-21)

Blame: Defensive, Deceptive, Disowning.

As with destructive anger in general, blaming others for how we manage anger is a defensive strategy {Pride} that helps us to avoid recognizing and experiencing difficult and challenging feelings such as shame, guilt, hurt, disappointment, sadness, and feelings of inadequacy or powerlessness. Blaming is like other formal defense mechanisms—a strategy of deception that we use to help preserve our self-esteem. It encompasses an attempt to disown feelings that we judge to be too uncomfortable or part of ourselves that create within us a sense of shame.

Blame, especially with regard to anger, also further reflects disowning our responsibility for our own behavior
(Psychology Today)

The Blame Game! (2000Yrs)

- Do I get defensive (Pride) when challenged?
- Looking for any way to deflect? (Him/Her)
- Felt Judged, Tone, Don't Know me, My Situation!
- Must focus on the truth in this conversation? (5%)
- Based on my own actions/inaction
- Satan wins when we are not accepting truth
- Have I Rationalized this sermon? (Not as Bad)
- My Eternity is at stake if I don't follow Jesus?
- Distance= Guilt + Shame, Pride + Blame (Fall Away)

Jesus' response to the Blame Game?

Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

Communion

You must follow me!

Time to Pick it Up!

- Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me (Matthew 10:38)
- Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Mt 16:24)

Peter from Coward to Conviction!

Tradition tells us that when Peter died as a martyr. When he was given the choice of how he should die, he said, “I’d like to be crucified up-side-down because I am unworthy to die as my Lord died.” (Dr. Wilmington)