

THE DISCIPLESHIP PATH

August 14, 2022 | Ron Lewis

WARM UP QUESTIONS: How do you typically try to spread the word when there is an exciting thing happening in your life?

READ: Mark 1:16-20

FOCUS: Know God, Grow Together, Discover Purpose, and Make a Difference

OBSERVE:

- When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He is extending an invitation to embark on this wonderful path of discipleship. On the Discipleship Path, we will experience a relationship with Jesus, community with others and a transformation that changes us and the world around us. Today Jesus' invitation is still open. He welcomes us to join Him on this walk through life where you can know God, grow together, discover purpose and make a difference. Just like the first disciples "left their nets and followed Him," we too must decide to leave behind anything and everything in order to follow Jesus on the Discipleship Path.
- Eternal life, or experiencing the fullness of life, only comes when we know God. So many of us look for the fullness of life in all sorts of places: career, marital or family status and economic affluence. All of these places provide educational prestige or even allow us to define life on our own terms as we see fit. According to this standard, the things we need most in life are the right job, spouse, identity or opportunity. But according to the Scriptures, our greatest need isn't physical, emotional or even mental; our greatest need is spiritual.
- The Bible teaches that God had planned for all the saints to be equipped by apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers. These offices are gifts to us so we can know our role in God's story and be ready for it. As followers of Christ, we each have been made masterfully to serve God, His people and those who don't yet know Him. These "works of ministry" have been prepared by God in advance for us to do. When we discover God's purpose and find our place in God's plan, we will have great joy and fulfillment. We also experience Christ's power, provisions and permissions.

TAKING ACTION:

- What benefits of God's community have you experienced or would you like to experience? Find one way to arrange your schedule this week to enjoy God's community in a new way.

REFLECT:

- What do you consider your greatest need in life? Do you see Jesus' invitation to "know God" as provision for your greatest need? Have you responded to Him?
- How would your life be improved with more community? Have you faced challenges alone because you have not had community at a certain point?

PRAY: God, thank You for pursuing me even when I wasn't looking for You and for calling me to walk on the Discipleship Path with You and others. Help me respond to Your invitation so I may know You more. I give You my life. Transform me by Your grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit so that I may impact the world for Your glory and for the good of others. Thank you for the opportunity in Christ to know You, grow together with others, discover Your purpose for my life and make a difference. We pray all of this in Jesus' name, amen.

