



## Why is this discipleship thing difficult?

- We are accustomed to repetition and imitation.
- We sometimes hesitate to push past the obvious.
- We avoid any chance of ambiguity or possibility.

## I. Discipleship, a challenge to an A to Z life

- a. As disciples, we are lifelong \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Discipleship thrives when we ask questions, which is a healthy alternative to “check box discipleship.”

*As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”*

Mark 10:17–20 (NRSV)

- c. Discipleship is not about what you can fit on a résumé.

*Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.* (vv. 21–22)

## II. Discipleship informs our approach to Scripture

- a. Disciples see the Scriptures as God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Word.
- b. More \_\_\_\_\_ doesn’t always equate to satisfaction, but instead, more \_\_\_\_\_ bears fruit.

*Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”* (vv. 23–27)

- c. Having too much knowledge can be harmful if misappropriated.
- d. Discipleship tasks us to approach Scripture through \_\_\_\_\_, not expertise.

### III. Why is discipleship uncomfortable?

*After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."* Genesis 22:1–2 (NRSV)

#### Is there turning back?

*Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.* (vv. 5–6)

*But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."* (vv. 11–14)

- a. We can be stretched when it comes to God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. We can't reduce discipleship to \_\_\_\_\_ testing.
- c. Discipleship, not so much in knowing everything God knows, but trusting and embracing the \_\_\_\_\_ that is its foundation.

### Pastor Ryan's Rules of Thumb For Discipleship

- Loosen our grip on knowledge.
- Adapt your lived faith to your context.
- Avoid sitting by passively in the face of challenge.

#### Sources consulted in today's sermon:

*On Beyond Zebra!* by Dr. Seuss

*New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

*Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Charles Marsh