



sermon notes

The Gospel in *The Lion King*

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SETTING THE TONE

Principles of Christian Discipleship:

- A lived experience of both _____ and _____.
- We never stop learning about ourselves and about God.
- We try to model the habits and disciplines of Christian character with all persons and within all spaces.

WHERE SIMBA'S STORY MEETS OURS

The discipleship journey never exists in _____.

- Simba's incorporation into the kingdom of Pride Rock resembles our incorporation into the Body of Christ through baptism.
- If we limit baptism solely to our _____, we lose sight of the wide reach of God's promise.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:25–29 (NRSV)

- A community that tends to each other in the mountains and valleys is an _____ communion, not a _____ communion.

When following God, we are always vulnerable to temptation.

- The temptation of _____.
 - Where there is absence of light, there is a void in _____.

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned. And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced against them long ago, has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep. These people, however, are like irrational animals, mere creatures of instinct, born to be caught and killed. They slander what they do not understand, and when those creatures are destroyed, they also will be destroyed, suffering the penalty for doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their dissipation while they feast with you. 2 Peter 2:1–3, 12–13 (NRSV)

- Worldly pleasures corrupt our _____ of God.
- The temptation of _____.
 - *Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?* Job 38:2 (NRSV)

➤ Temptation can _____ our relationship with God.

In discipleship, we set our hearts on what's pleasing to God, not to ourselves.

- Discipleship is not a map to _____.

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it." Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Genesis 4:1–16 (NRSV)

- Disordered desire is the _____ with which we all wrestle.
- When the most intimate connections we have are broken within the Body of Christ, the deepest wounds are often felt.
- Discipleship is not about pressing people into places where they feel more _____ than they already are.

Simba's return to Pride Rock parallels our path toward redemption.

- Dealing with the past is not so much about running from it, but drawing _____ from it.
- Because of God's grace through Christ Jesus, we are no longer stained with inherited guilt.

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:11–17 (NIV)

- Our _____ with Christ is our homecoming.

Major Sources:

- *The Gospel According to Disney: Faith, Trust and Pixie Dust* by Mark Pinsky.
- *Diversity in Disney Films: Critical Essays on Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality and Disability* edited by Johnson Cheu.
- *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology* by Randy L. Maddox.