

Day 15 - Following Jesus

Jesus then and now still invites people to, “Come, follow me.” That was a Rabbi’s way of saying, “I believe you can become like me - do the things I do.” Jesus often sees more in us than we see in ourselves. The invitation is to “not BE Jesus.” There is one Savior and we are not Him. The invitation is to be LIKE Jesus in how we live each and every day.

Do you believe you can be like Jesus? Why or why not?

Our focus scripture for today is Luke 9:23

“²³ Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.’”

Following Jesus is a process of being with Him, becoming like Him, and doing the sort of things He did. But if we are going to realize the potential Jesus sees in each of us, it's going to take an intentional decision to deny and die to various things in our lives. There is so much in our lives—both within and outside of us—that gets in the way of following Jesus. So many things that get in the way of us imitating Jesus and doing the types of things He did. The disciples spent 3 years being personally trained by Jesus. Over time, they learned to identify the things keeping them from becoming like their teacher.

Pause to ask God to reveal what is keeping you from having the time and focus to become more like Jesus.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” we invite you to identify avenues of training inside and outside the church that could help you with greater consistency “take up your cross” to follow Jesus and live a more fruitful and faithful life.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

John 8:12 “¹² Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.