

## Day 27 - Building Disciples

We are living at a time in history with unprecedented access to information. Evidence suggests the average person consumes around 74GB of data per day, which is equivalent to the amount of data an extremely educated individual would have processed in a lifetime 500 years ago. That is staggering. But sadly, information alone cannot change the human heart. We need opportunities and environments where we can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with guides to learn the ways of gospel transformation.

Have you ever failed to put into practice potentially life-changing information? What stopped you? What was missing?

Our focus scripture for today is 1 Corinthians 4:14–16

“<sup>14</sup> I’m not writing this to shame you, but to warn you as my dear children. <sup>15</sup> For you may have countless instructors in Christ, but you don’t have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I urge you to imitate me.”

According to Paul, the church of Corinth was full of countless people teaching about Jesus and His way of life. They had the content. They had the information. But, they didn’t have “*many fathers*” - people to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with, learning how to actually put into practice the ways of Jesus. This left them immature. This also happens to us. We read all the books. Listen to all the podcasts. Watch all the videos. But no access to flesh and blood to help us actually live these truths out in the highs and lows of our lives. Paul urges them, and us - find people with lives worth imitating. Find people who will give you access to their lives in order to imitate and practice how to actually live the way of Jesus. This is Paul’s way of reinforcing Jesus’ words in found in Luke 6:40 that “<sup>40</sup> *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.*”

Following Jesus is about becoming His apprentice—committing to a journey of imitating Him and doing the things He did.

Pause to consider what it would take you to move from merely taking in good spiritual information to finding someone to imitate and implement the ways of Jesus.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say, “Yes, Lord,” take a risk and reach out to someone you respect who has a life worth imitating. Ask to buy them a meal or coffee sometime in the next month. Prep a list of questions on how they have followed the ways of Jesus. Their successes. Their failures. What they learned. When you meet, put your phone away, be present, and make sure you take notes.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, may you be challenged by the word of Paul in:

1 Corinthians 11:1 “<sup>1</sup> Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.”

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.