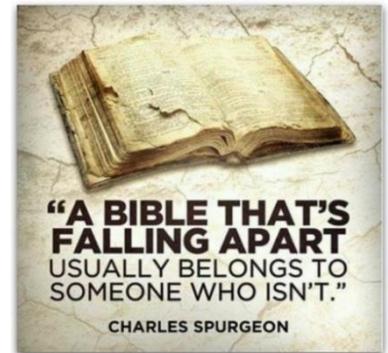




Beaches Baptist Church

April 29-May 5, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

What is a disciple?

DISCIPLESHIP- what is it, and what does it mean? Some of our traditional ways of understanding discipleship are only partially correct. When some hear the term discipleship they often think of some kind of Bible study curriculum. On taking the disciples on this journey of discipleship, did Jesus sit down to teach his disciples with a pile of Bible study curriculum and say, "Well I've only got three years with you and over that time we will work our way through this discipleship training manual"? No, we know that one of the key elements to making the process work was his insistence of having them continually with him (Mk.3:14). They not only heard his words but experienced his works and his ways as well. This study is heavily indebted to the Bible study series *Come follow Me*- by Ian Malins.

Monday

Matthew 11:28 (ESV)

²⁸ Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 6:44 (ESV)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 1:12 (ESV)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right [the power] to become children of God.

John 15:16 (ESV)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should

abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Reflect: Discipleship doesn't start with your desire or decision to follow Jesus. It starts with His call

Tuesday

"Take my yoke upon you..." - Mt.11:29

Luke 14:25-33 (NLT)

²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

³¹ "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

Reflect: Jesus made it clear that before you answer His call to discipleship you must first count the cost. A yoke is a commitment to surrender to Christ's control, allowing him to be Lord. Learning to obey and keep in step with him in everything you do

Wednesday

"...and learn from me..." - Mt.11:29

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (NLT)

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. ² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

³ Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. ⁵ And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. ⁶ And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labour. ⁷ Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

Reflect: A disciple is a learner and must have a teachable spirit.

Thursday

"...and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." - Mt.11:29

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Reflect: What kind of person was Jesus? Gently and lowly in heart. Not high on status or qualifications...he was who he was and did what he did. A disciple is one who is becoming like his master.

Friday

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - Mt.11:30

1 John 5:3-5 (ESV)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Reflect: The demands of discipleship may seem very great- but this is because you don't want to give up control. It is no longer me but Christ in me- a disciple isn't just one who imitates his master but one who is indwelt and empowered by his Spirit. When we live like this discipleship is a joy and delight.

Saturday

John 14:21 (NLT)

²¹Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

Reflect: A disciple is one who obeys Jesus.

Sunday

John 15:4-5 (NIV)

⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Reflect: A disciple is one who stays connected to Jesus and thereby bears fruit.