

Are You Followers or Consumers? **Luke 9:51-62**

Disciples

After the Day of Pentecost, we enter the long season of Ordinary Time. Do you know the official color of this Ordinary Time? As you can see on the altar, it's green. Why green? Green is the color of growth and of fruitfulness. So Ordinary Time does not simply mean relaxing from busy church work or spiritual practices. Rather, it is about growing in our faith, about accepting the gifts that we've been given, and producing fruit as the body of Christ. It's time to practice our Christian faith in our ordinary life to be more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

One important question we need to think of in this season of spiritual growth is "Are you a Jesus-consumer or a Jesus-follower?" As the pandemic hit the world 2 and half years ago, many churches including Asbury UMC had to adapt to this new situation and started online worship services and we continue to offer hybrid worship services still. The best part of online worship might be that you can worship at home, even in your pajamas and nobody would know it. If you are smiling, perhaps this is you. Also, many wonderful sermons are available on the internet nowadays so you can listen to your favorite preacher's sermons at any time. My brother in Korea, who is also a pastor, and I talked about ministry during the pandemic. His concern was that as the pandemic prolonged, people got used to online worship services. They began to feel that gathering at the sanctuary was not necessary for worship and just watched the service at their convenience. What do you think about this? Is coming to church on Sunday morning necessary for worship?

In the Gospel of John, Jesus seemed to affirm that location is not essential for worship. Jesus said, "they will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem... But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:21-24) We can worship God from wherever we are because we are in God.

So, location of worship is not our main concern. Our primary concern is that nowadays worship and preaching have become a kind of religious commodity for religious consumers. Internet technology has surely provided us a way to gather virtually in this time of the pandemic, but at the same time, it has made many Christians religious consumers who merely seek for better products. We must remember that Jesus didn't call us to be Jesus-consumers but his followers. Are you a Jesus-consumer or a Jesus-follower? What's the difference between Jesus-consumers and Jesus-followers?

During Jesus ministry, many people came to meet Jesus and the crowds loved him. Every day, he would pull off miracles. He healed the sick, cast out demons, and even brought people back from the dead, and the people loved it! One day, he fed thousands of people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Food tastes better when someone else makes it for you and it's even better when it's free! People loved it. They could hear a moving sermon and plus they could get a free clinic and free food! Life was good! And the crowd loved him. They wanted to be entertained with his miracles. They wanted to get a free meal and free medical and spiritual clinics. But the crowd didn't want to follow him. They just wanted to consume what Jesus could

do for them. Jesus-consumers don't have to pay anything to be with Jesus. Whenever they don't like it, they can leave.

The Cost of Following Jesus

But there is a cost to following Jesus. As Jesus headed to Jerusalem, someone asked if he could go along. "I'll go with you, wherever," he said. Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Jesus reminded him that following Jesus would not be easy. It is a rough and narrow path.

To another, Jesus said, "Follow me." He answered, "Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father's funeral." Jesus refused. "First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent: Announce God's kingdom!" Following Jesus requires a radical commitment to Jesus and putting God's kingdom first over everything else.

Then another said, "I'm ready to follow you, Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home." Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day." While this man decided to follow Jesus, what he missed was the sense of urgency. Following Jesus cannot be a secondary task after the family business. We should follow him immediately. In short, following Jesus is urgent and important. It requires our total commitment and it's not easy. Hearing this, do you still want to follow Jesus?

People often tell me that "I don't know why people stopped coming to church." But a more essential question we need to ask is "Why do we still want to follow Jesus despite all these costs of following him?" Why do you want to be with Jesus? I encourage you to think about this question and write your own testimony. From that point, the renewal of the church begins.

Following Jesus is costly but it is also grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor and martyr under Nazi Germany, wrote, "Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again... Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life... Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: 'Ye were bought at a price', and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God." (The Cost of Discipleship) Following Jesus is costly but it's grace that leads us to the only true life.

Following Jesus

I believe all of us here would agree that we should follow Jesus. I also believe that we know that following Jesus Christ today entails both obeying his teachings and imitating his example, so that we can be like Jesus himself. To think as he thought, to feel as he felt, to act as he acted, to desire what he desired. Following Jesus means a journey of transformation. It doesn't sound easy but I will tell you how to do it. Do you know how to follow Jesus? "Just do it!" It sounds like a TV commercial. But the only way to follow Jesus is "Just do it!" One step at a time. Just follow Jesus.

All wonderful beliefs such as the love of God and the love of neighbor count for little until they are turned into habits of action that become habits of the heart. The only way to turn them into a habit is by doing them every day. Begin with a small thing something like praying three times a day for 5 minutes each time. But make it your daily ritual until it becomes your habit. The ancient Hebrew word for hard work is avoda. It is also the word that means “serving God. Jonathan Sacks said, “Achieving any form of spiritual growth requires sustained effort and daily rituals.”¹ During this ordinary time, find one specific daily ritual and keep doing it until it becomes a habit of the heart. Follow Jesus in your everyday lives. And Christ, our Lord will continue to walk with us. Amen.

During this ordinary time,

What applies in the arts, sciences, business, and industry, applies equally to the life of the spirit.

Sacks,. Studies in Spirituality (Covenant & Conversation Book 9) (p. 149). Koren Publishers Imprint: Maggid. Kindle Edition.

all the high ideals in the world – the human person as God’s image, belief in God’s unity, and the love of neighbour – count for little until they are turned into habits of action that become habits of the heart. We

Following Jesus means that we aren’t satisfied with who we are now but continue to strive for more holy living every day. Do you know how

Sacks, Jonathan. Studies in Spirituality (Covenant & Conversation Book 9) (p. 150). Koren Publishers Imprint: Maggid. Kindle Edition.

genius is one per cent inspiration, ninety-nine per cent perspiration.

Sacks, Jonathan. Studies in Spirituality (Covenant & Conversation Book 9) (p. 149). Koren Publishers Imprint: Maggid. Kindle Edition.

¹ Sacks, Jonathan. Studies in Spirituality (Covenant & Conversation Book 9) (p. 149). Koren Publishers Imprint: Maggid. Kindle Edition.

Judaism's greatness is that it takes high ideals and exalted visions – image of God, faith in God, love of neighbour – and turns them into patterns of behaviour.

Sacks, Jonathan. Studies in Spirituality (Covenant & Conversation Book 9) (p. 150).
Koren Publishers Imprint: Maggid. Kindle Edition.
a journey of transformation.

How can we do this?

일상의 패턴을 잡는 일에서 부터 시작하면 된다.

You don't have to be missionary or extra-ordinary persons to follow Jesus.

등산

One step at a time

of our whole selves. But can we become like Jesus?

포기하지 않고 계속해서 발전해 나가는 것... 조금 더 성화되어 가는 것이 예수 따르는 것이다.
그저 만족하고, 만족하고, 머무는 것이 아니라... 거룩하기 위해서
웨슬리 목사님의 거룩의 이해... 하나님 사랑하기를 포기하지 않는 상태...가 거룩...
죄없는 상태가 아닌... 예수 닮아가는 것... 역시 상태가 아닌... 지속적인 노력의 상태다.
오늘날 많은 사람들이 아무것도 안하고 만족시켜주기 바란다. 그러나 노력없이는 없다
구약의 하나님을 섬긴다는 단어는 '아보다'인데..

Don't give up

As you know, Juhee and I are very different. Juhee is outgoing, emotional, and energetic while I am introverted, logical and calm. One day,

Following Jesus, then, entails both obeying his teachings and imitating his example. That end or goal of discipleship is to become like Jesus himself:

예수가 사랑한 눈처럼 사랑하고, 예수의 마음으로 사랑하는 것

노력해서 따라갈 때만 누리는 축복이 있다.

Have you ever really thought about why you want to be with Jesus?

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: 'Ye were bought at a price', and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

교회에 사람들이 왜 안나오느냐... 보다 왜 우리가 주님과 함께 잇기 원하느냐?를 기억해야 한다.

훈련을
생각하는 것 중요하다.

I often heard
Many people told me that

왜 교회에 다니는가?

1. Deny self and interests to seek God first.

주님 따르다는 말... 목사가 된다거나... 교회일을 한다는 의미가 아닌
일상의 삶 속에서... 주님이 보여주신 삶을 살아내고, 주님이 보여주신 하나님 사랑과 이웃사랑의 위대
한 가치를 체화하는 삶이다.

우리 일상의 삶과 주님 따르는 것의 균형을 어떻게 만들까?

You see the differences between Jesus-consumers and Jesus-followers. Don't you?

Three things stand out

Following Jesus means we give Jesus the key to control the direction and flow of our lives.
God's timing and our timing do not always cohere.

제자도 – 소외될 수 있다. 급진적 헌신을 요구한다.

Urgency

하나님이 우리 교회로 이끄시는 방향이 무엇일까?

Grandma Moses, was an American folk artist. She began painting in earnest at the age of 78 and is a prominent example of a newly successful art career at an advanced age. Her works have been shown and sold worldwide, including in museums, and have been merchandised such as on greeting cards. Sugaring Off was sold for US\$1.2 million in 2006.

하나님을 섬기는 것 / 제자가 되는 훈련

99%의 노력과 1%의 영감

Detail에 관심을 두는 것이다. 일상의 details

서로 다른 calling과 응답필요... 각사람에 맞는 calling을 주신다.

“Are you a Jesus-consumer or a Jesus-follower?”

Do you think coming to the church on Sunday morning is important even if you can watch the service later? What do you think?

I believe that we can worship God at any place because God is everywhere. But at the same time, I believe gathering at the church on Sunday morning is still important because it reminds us that

Follower... 주님을 따른다는 것... 내가 편할 때... 드리는 것이 아니라... 시간을 정해서 매듭을 짓고, 삶의 방향을 맞추는 훈련이다.

하나님을 섬긴다는 것은 수고이다.

내가 편할 때 드리는 것이 아니라... 주님을 사랑하기에 하는 것... 훈련과 같고 뉘는 것이 필요하다.

1% 영감과 99%의 노력...

for consumers.

So

“Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you[g] will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You[h] worship what you[i] do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Have you ever really thought about why you want to be with Jesus?
So, why do you want to be with Jesus?

Jesus-consumers want to be with Jesus for the entertainment, feel-good value.

While we love to

It's time to refine

I believe most of us are professing members of the United Methodist Church. If so, do you know the mission of the United Methodist Church? It is “is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

I have been a pastor at Asbury for 3 years and not entering to the 4th year of my ministry here. How was it so far? So far so good? A pastor and a congregation tend to have a short honeymoon period and get into real family life. But I feel that we didn't have a rough time yet. Do you know why? Of course, you are a good and welcoming congregation and I might be a good pastor. Another reason in my view is Covid-19. 7 months after my appointment, Covid-19 hit the world and since then, we are still in a pandemic situation and nobody knows when it will end. Covid-19 has changed many things including our ways of worship. At the beginning of the pandemic, we are unable to gather at the sanctuary so we used online worship service. After we could regather at the church, we set up live-streaming equipment and offer a hybrid worship service each Sunday. According to

Let's start with a word about liturgical colors. You can see listed here that the official color of the long season of Ordinary Time is green. This makes sense for lots of reasons: Ordinary Time is about growing in our faith, about accepting the gifts that we've been given, and producing the fruit not just as individual Christians but as the body of Christ. Green is the color of growth and of fruitfulness. There are other reasons why the season claims the color green. Perhaps you and

your team can come up with some more and use them to inform the congregation who may never have given thought to why the green paraments are used throughout this season.

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. T

무의미한 인생에 대한 아픔은 누구나 다 가지고 있다.
그러다보니 의미를 추구하는 존재
예수님이 주시는 '길과 진리요 생명'이다

구도자인가 소비자인가?

생명의 길... 예수 따르는 길...
힘으로 찍어 누르는 것 아니라..
연민과 사랑과 자유...

제자가 되는 것은 쉽지 않다. (죽으러 간다.)

As you know, I am struggling with an itching throat and dry coughing for almost four weeks. It's not Covid-19

Covid-19 pandemic

Born Christian or Born again Christian?

화두

KMC – 김성은 목사님 초대
믿을만한 동료들 초대해서..

다음주
인도자: 임찬순 목사님
기도자: 고요한 목사님

제자도
제자입니까?
무리와 제자구분
- 중심에 내가 있는가?
-

Many motions will not make an action

예수를 따르는 삶

무의미한 인생에 대한 아픔은 누구나 다 가지고 있다.
그러다보니 의미를 추구하는 존재
예수님이 주시는 ‘길과 진리요 생명’이다

구도자인가 소비자인가?

생명의 길... 예수 따르는 길...
힘으로 찍어 누르는 것 아니라..
연민과 사랑과 자유...

제자가 되는 것은 쉽지 않다. (죽으러 간다.)

팬데믹 이후에 우리의 진솔한 고민을 가지고... 모임을 갠으면 좋을 것 같다.

진실된 목회의 고민이 최고다.

예수님이 왜 그러셨을까?
갈릴리 사역은 희망을 주고 소망을 주신다면...

예루살렘 사역은 비워지고, 자신을 죽음으로 내모는 과정이다.

갈릴리의 소망을 유지하려면
예루살렘을 깨야하는데... 결국 그것을 깨는 사건...
이 예수가 그리스도라는 소망이 필요하다.

하나님 나라 목회의 우선순위는 무엇일까?
목회 평가의 잣대가 바뀌어야 하지 않을까?
그중 하나가 51절에 나오는 ‘권력의 중심에 선 자들의 모습’ 버려야 한다.

Priority – 성경에서 예수가 추구한 길로 내 선입관 버리고 들어가고
보여지는 것이 아니라... 바닥에서 부터 뜻을 같이 하는 사람들을 만들고 훈련하는 목회

모든 사람을 위한 모든 목회가 아니라... 예수 따라가는 삶으로

임찬순
예수님이 예루살렘으로 가는 것에 마음이 정해졌다는 말씀
원치 모르고 따라간다는 사람들인 것 같다.

하나님의 나라를 확신하는 자에게 혼내고
따르는 자들에게 어려움 말하고
초대하는 자에게...
반/반 걸친 사람한테는 주저하지 말아라 말씀하시고

각 사람에게 맞는 핵심들을 던져 주시는 것 같다.

급진적 예수정신 회복가능한가?
Compromise 하답

돈오점수오 돈오돈수

나누어지고 갈라진 사마리아/이스라엘

제자들의 분노 – 거절에 대한 분노: 심판
예수: 심판이 아닌 제자들 비판 the divine mercy
예수의 사역 심판 아닌 자비와 용서 희년선포임을 기억나게 하심

나와 다른이... 나를 받아들이지 않는 사람들... 나는 하나님의 편이라는 승리주의에 대한 예수님의 rebuke

우리 모두 자비와 은혜로 살아감 기억 – 타인에게 더 자비로워질 수 있다.

제자도 – 소외될 수 있다. 급진적 헌신을 요구한다.

Urgency

제자 되는 것 – 예언자적 드라마에 참석하는 것

d. In his first response to an eager follower, Jesus warns of the hardship of an itinerant life. In the second case, Jesus issues a call to follow him, but the would-be disciple raises a family obligation. Jesus responds with a riddle (“Let the dead bury their own dead”) and a second exhortation, this time to proclaim the kingdom. Finally, a third person commits to following Jesus but with the proviso of saying goodbye to their family. Jesus’ warning echoes as a final word on discipleship in light of the kingdom: “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (9:62).

To follow Jesus, the “Son of Man” who — unlike “foxes” and “birds of the sky” — has no place to lay his head, is to embark on a journey that may involve alienation; indeed it already has in the preceding rejection by a Samaritan village (Luke 9:51-56)! Further, the call to follow Jesus on the journey of “proclaiming the kingdom of God” is a call to radical commitment, whether the dead who are left to bury the dead are understood literally as referring to those who deal with corpses (e.g., grave diggers) or metaphorically as referring to those who are spiritually dead and who refuse to take up this challenge. In this regard, the call to follow Jesus is a call to participate in a “prophetic drama” that, like Jeremiah’s or Ezekiel’s refusal to mourn the dead, underscores the crisis at hand (compare with Jeremiah 16:5-9; Ezekiel 24:16-24).

진솔한 만남이 가능한 미팅을 만들어 보자

여름중에

솔직한 설교에 대한 이야기

목회에 대한 진솔한 고민을 이야기하면 좋겠다

진지하게 목회를 고민하는 사람들 모임

30-40명 정도 모일 수 있게

특별모임

8월 7(일)-8월9일(화)

허탈해서...

설교를 중심으로 생각해 볼 것