



Women's Discipleship Class
September 7, 2017

Verses Covered

2 Timothy 2:1 – 2

1 Timothy 4:7

Mark 7:10 – 13

John 6:53 – 57

John 6:60

John 6:66 – 69

Acts 9:15 – 16

2 Corinthians 11:24 – 28

Mark 6:45 – 52

Colossians 1:15 - 20

Now I want you to look at a couple verses with me today. Number one I want you to go to 2 Timothy chapter 2. Even though he uses the word men, this has application to you. It's the first reason we're going to do this. 2 Timothy chapter 2 beginning in verse 1. Look in 1 and 2. Here's what he says:

¹You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ²what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses commit to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

So here's what he tells Timothy. You take what I've given you. You find a group of men; you give it to them with the understanding that they're going to give it to other people as well. So this is the first thing I expect from you. When we finish this, and it will take us about, we're going to do a semester, and everything at Central's done on semester here in College Station. We're going to do two semesters. When we finish, I expect you to find four or five women, bring them in your home, take them wherever you want to go: McDonalds, Starbucks, whatever. And you walk them through what I'm going to walk you through. Now that's the agenda. If you're not willing to do that, we'd rather you not really be involved. We want you to take some other women through this. Discipleship has to be ongoing. The failure of the nation of Israel is was one thing. One failure that they had that they never recovered from and they never fixed is they never transferred their faith. You never find a generation, there are only two generations that do it right, Joshua's day and when David was king. They never really recovered; Joshua's

day, the next generation is a failure. David's day started out well but ends an abysmal failure after he finishes as king. So they never do transfer. So we want to make sure our faith is transferred. So I want you to do that.

Secondly, I have no interest, I want you to turn to Mark 7:11. I have absolutely zero interest in you gaining knowledge. I want you to listen to me very carefully because Mark 7:11 is a great example of this. If you gain knowledge and you don't do something with it, then all it does is make you completely arrogant and it wrecks who you are. So knowledge without use is going to make you completely destructive for Christ. Timothy talks about the fact, as a matter of fact you stay where you are, but here's what it says in 1 Timothy 4. He says,

⁷Rather train yourself in godliness;

So you have a responsibility to take the word of God; pull it into your life where you become godly. Now the Greek word for godliness there particularly means two things. It means I develop this huge reverence for God that shows up in my life. If all I do is sing praises to God, but there's no alteration to my life then I'm not Godly. So Paul tells Timothy, "Take this word, train yourself with it so you become a person who reveres God and it shows up in how they live." Those two things are paramount. If you don't and you only study the scripture, here's what happens to you. The Pharisees are the classic example of that. As a matter of fact, Jesus was so upset with them, if you read the Sermon on the Mount carefully in Matthew 5, 6, and 7 all three chapters are against the Pharisees. The entire sermon slams them because of what they do. They refuse to take the truth and implement it in their life. They manipulate, they twist it, they go around it, they ignore it. And here's what happens. Now look at Mark 7 beginning in verse 10:

¹⁰Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever speaks evil to their father and mother must be put to death.' ¹¹But you say, 'If anyone tells his father and mother, "Whatever benefit you might have received from me is Corban"' (that is an offering devoted to God) – ¹²you no longer let him do anything for his father and mother, ¹³you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you've handed down. And you do many other similar things."

Now that's a weird thing. They had a great fundraising gimmick in the first century. There was no nursing home in this day, right. No extended living so here's what you did. If you go to Israel they'll show you. You start with a house here and then when your son gets married, he builds an extension on for his wife. And so you have this constant extension. It's kind of like the Waltons. But you'll wind up with everybody living in the same arena. The reason being when your parents get old, you're going to take care of them financially and every way. But the Pharisees, because they were so good at ignoring the truth they knew, and they knew the truth, but they ignored it. Didn't pull it into their life. So their heart became so bad that they had a great gimmick. Here it is: Corban. What you could do is you could bring a gift of money to the temple. Hand it and so they would take it, and it was called Corban, and you can go home to your parents and say, "Look I'm not going to give you any more money. You're kind of on your own. But I want you to know a great truth; the money we would have given you has been given to God. It's Corban and so we're not going to take care of you, but know that as you suffer at the end of your life that money was a gift to God in your name." I mean that's how idiotic the

Pharisees became. So if we walk through a bunch of truth and you don't implement it in your life, all that happens is you become arrogant.

One of the things we've noticed on staff, and I want to be careful how I say this, this is not true for everybody. But we've noticed it for 31 years. The hardest people we have to get into service are people that do Bible studies. Because they get so caught up in the studying and so busy in the study you can't get them to implement their faith. That's our heartbeat here. I want your faith implemented. I want you to take what we do and you pull it into your life. It will be difficult. For example, we'll have a section on intercessory prayer. I've always had two things happen when I walk through that section. I've never had anybody come to me and say, "You're wrong in what the scripture teaches." Ever. But every single person has come to me and said you direct my prayer life because it is so difficult to implement. We don't want to implement it because it's not how we want to pray. As a matter of fact, as an intro, what the Bible says about intercessory prayer is if you pray correctly the answer God gives you is always a yes. It's not what we hear. It's what the scripture teaches. So, again, it's going to be a little difficult to implement these things and there's only one way you're going to implement it. So what we're going to do today, I'm going to give you the key on how you transfer your faith into your life. Now there's only one way to do that.

So we're going to look at a couple scriptures. I want you to go with me to the sixth chapter of John. Now John 3, what does Jesus tell Nicodemus? What does he say? You have to be born again, right. You have to have had an internal change. No problem there. Chapter 4 of John he tells the woman at the well, "Look, quit looking at men for your answer. Look to me and if you do, I'll give you a water that you'll never thirst again." Well those both are pretty inviting. Now Jesus grew up in a Jewish home. He grew up in a home where there were certain things that were sacred in the home. One of them was if you were a young male, you were circumcised. If you were not circumcised you didn't live with the family, you didn't go to the synagogue, you partook nothing, and you weren't a Jew. So that was extremely critical. You had to be circumcised as a young man. There were a couple other things in a Jewish home that Jesus knew when he was growing up. One of them was that you did not eat meat with the blood in it. Ever! If you went to a friend's home and you took a bite of the meat and blood came out, you were responsible for pushing that aside. Jesus knew that. It was an extremely offensive thing. We know it was offensive because in Acts 15 when the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians get together to decide whether or not the new Gentile men need to be circumcised to be a part of Christianity, they give up circumcision, but they keep two things: you've got to take care of the poor and you could never eat meat with the blood in it. Ever. So they kept that. And the Gentiles said, "Ok. No problem." So that's how powerful this thing was.

So now we come to chapter 6. Jesus has fed 5,000 people which is really about 15,000 people. There's 5,000 men so you take the wives, take the children, and you've got 15,000 people that he's fed. OK. As a matter of fact, it's one of the, there are only 11 things in all four gospels. That's one of the 11. So he's fed 15,000 people. They're following him. He doesn't say to them what he said to Nicodemus in chapter 3. He doesn't say to them what he said to the woman in chapter 4. Here's what he says. Look at, again John chapter 6, look beginning in verse 53.

⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourself. ⁵⁴The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. ⁵⁵Because my flesh is true food, my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

Now look down in verse 60.

⁶⁰Therefore when many of his disciples heard this, they said, “This teaching is hard; who can accept it?”

Now it is hard. There is no preacher in America, as a matter of fact, anywhere, that would preach on what I just read unless he’s walking through the book. No preacher’s going to pull that out. That’s hard for us. If I get up Sunday morning and say, “You’ve got to eat the flesh of Jesus and drink his blood.” How many people are going to be back the next Sunday? This is offensive to us. It killed the Jews. Sure enough look at verse 66.

⁶⁶From that moment, many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve,

He ran off 15,000 people. He didn’t run off Nicodemus. He didn’t run off the woman at the well. He ran off 15,000 people with a statement that he knew would offend them. Now why do the 12 stay? Now here is what a disciple is. Now listen. I don’t care how well you hold your hands up when you worship. I don’t care how many tears run down your face. I don’t care how emotional you are about Jesus. None of that matters. Here is the ultimate in discipleship.

⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve, “You don’t want to go away too, do you?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go?”

In other words, “If we had somewhere else, we might give it a shot.” Now watch this.

You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹we have come to believe, and come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

He said, “The reason we’re staying with you is because we know who you are.” Now it is your reverence for Christ that will pull the truth into your life. For example, when we get to intercessory prayer, you’re going to hate the answer in the scripture because it’s not going to be what you want to do. The only way to implement it in your life is to be so in love with Christ, you don’t care what he says. So you’re going to have to develop a passion for Jesus. As a matter of fact, this is always the case. Look at Acts chapter 9. Acts chapter 9. Paul has met Jesus on the Damascus Road. He’s been saved, life changed, he realizes who Jesus is, God comes to Ananias and says, “I want you to go over, he’s blind, he’s been blind three days, I want you to go lay your hands on him, and awaken him.” Ananias, of course, says “You know I don’t think I want to do that. This guy’s been really bad on us.” Listen to Acts 9:15.

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for this man is my chosen instrument to take my name to the Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Now you go over to 2 Corinthians 11. Now he says, “I’m going to show him two things through you, Ananias. I’m going to show him he gets to preach to kings, Jews, and Gentiles. But the second thing is I’m going to show him that he is going to suffer for me.” So here’s what happens. Look at this beginning in 2 Corinthians 11, verse 24. He details some of it.

²⁴Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; I spent a night and a day in the open sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys I faced dangers from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; ²⁷toil and hardship, sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, no food, cold without clothing. ²⁸Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my concern for all the churches.

How does he do that? Because he discovered who Jesus was. It is his understanding of Christ that allows him to endure the suffering. You cannot pull the scripture into your life unless you understand Christ. So turn with me to the Gospel of Mark chapter 6. Slide over there. Now I want you to listen to, again, one of the weirdest stories in the entire New Testament. It’s right after he fed the 5,000. It’s inside the timeframe of John 6. Most of the miracles Jesus did are in the Old Testament. He raised Lazarus from the dead. You have people raised from the dead in the Old Testament. You have lepers healed in the Old Testament. You have people healed; both places. There’s one miracle he does that never appears in the Old Testament and never appears again in his ministry and that’s this. Now watch this. Verse 45, Mark 6. Now he’s just finished feeding 5,000 people with two fish, five pieces of bread. Huge miracle. Obviously it’s huge because it’s in all four gospels. So it’s a massive miracle. They saw it. They know they couldn’t do it. They understand he did what they can’t. They know he’s different from them. They understand he’s God. They get it. Their theology is sound. Now watch this.

⁴⁵Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side of Bethsaida while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After he said goodbye to them, he went away to the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷Well into the night, the boat was in the middle of the sea, that is the Sea of Galilea, and he was alone in the land. ⁴⁸He saw them straining at the oars because the wind was against them. Very early in the morning, that is about 4 AM, he came toward them, walking on the sea.

So he’s walking on top of the water. He’s never done that. It’s never been done in the Old Testament. He never did that before. He’s never going to do that again. He does it only this time. Now look at the next statement.

He wanted to pass by them,

What he hopes is that they will recognize who he is and not be bothered by it. But instead look at what happens.

⁴⁹when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out,

The Greek actually means; cried out like a junior high girl in a movie theatre. That's actually the Greek word there.

They thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Hey, have courage; it is I. Don't be afraid."

No apology.

⁵¹He gets into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded.

Now watch this.

⁵²because they had not understood about the loaves, instead their hearts were hardened.

So they see this miracle, but they've seen so many miracles that it didn't have any effect on them. So he walks on the water intentionally hoping they'll not be afraid; they'll know who he is. Doesn't work and so he terrifies them intentionally so when he gets in the boat now they look at him and go, "Oh my gosh!" There's this enormous sense of awe connected with who he is. Now here's the thing I want you to understand. Their theology has not changed one bit. Same theology before and after the boat. But there's an awe in their soul toward their theology and toward who he is now. That's the change. What you feel about Christ will determine what you do with this study. And if all you do is take head knowledge, all you're going to do is become arrogant. What I want you to do is pull it into your life and bring it to other people.

Now one last scripture verse. Colossians chapter 1. When I finished my oral exams in seminary; it was 2 hours and 40 minutes of just tremendous joy. Three professors popping me with everything they could think of. The last question that was asked me was asked me by Dr. McKellar and he said, "If you have one section of scripture to preach on at your last sermon before you die, what are you going to do?" This is the one I picked. Colossians 1, verse 15. It's about Christ.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶Everything was created by him, in heaven, earth, visible, invisible, thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities – all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. ¹⁸He's the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross.

Now here's your homework. Now I told you that you weren't going to have any, but I lied. You're going to have one thing of homework from now until we finish the study; one thing. I

want you to go home tonight and I want you every single day for the next 8 months, I want you to read Colossians 1:15 – 20. Then I want you to ask God to put you in the boat so that you come out of the boat, not just understanding the theology, but being awe-inspired by the truth of Jesus Christ. If you become awed by Jesus, you'll implement everything in the scripture you can. You lose your sense of awe, and you won't. They were numbed to his miracles. I think we get numbed to his truth. So I want you to pray one thing every week.

“God, put me in the boat so the truth about your Son will drive into my soul an awe-reverence that will change who I am in my life.

That's your homework.

Good friend of mine who came through Central, who's the pastor at Austin Stone, Matt Carter. We were talking at CAPS last year and we were discussing hiring staff and all the things we looked for. And Matt had a great statement. He said, “I don't come in on staff hiring until the end,” but he said, “when I do I have a few questions for them.” And he said, “One of my questions is this. When's the last time you wept over what Jesus means to you?” I think that's key. So for this study these next 8 months to be effective and for you to pull it in your life, you're going to have to have an awe-reverence for Christ.

So next week we're going to look at the one authority in your life. It's not your husband. He thinks it is, but he's wrong. One authority in your life. We're going to look at that next week.

Alright, questions about anything.

Yes, ma'am.

Brittany Mangum asking a question. No. His ultimate prayer was, “Is there another way besides this.” That was his prayer in the garden. I'm supposed to repeat the question for Audra. I'm sorry. She asked when Jesus was in the Garden, he said, “Father is there,” he asked about his will because we're going to learn, and you're way ahead of me, we're going to learn, I didn't say anything about his will today, but very good. We're going to learn you have to pray his will and so Jesus asked about his will in the Garden, but what did pray was, “Is there some other way besides what I have to go through on the cross?” Once he knew the will, yielded to the will, and that's why we're able to sit where we sit. Any other questions? I will open it up at the end every week. You'll have a ton of questions on some of the subjects we'll cover. But I'll take about 30 minutes, walk you through some stuff, and then we'll rock and roll from there. And we will start every week at 6:30 precisely. So any other questions today? You're letting me off easy? I'm impressed. This is great. The last group of women wore me out. So this may be, this is always my big challenge. I actually enjoy the question and answer. What's that? It's the first class. Don't get cute Dianna because I will wear you out over, yeah. Dianna constantly has something to stay. We have a mutual friend that we work with, or did, for a period of time.

OK. We will see you next Thursday at 6:30 in here. We'll walk through the one authority in your life and then we'll rock and roll. Actually, let me just pray before we leave and I do appreciate you being here. Let me pray.

Father thank you for these ladies; single, college, married, all across the board. Different issues, different callings in life, different seasons of life, different times of life. Father I simply ask you, let these next few months, let your word transfer into their lives, let them bring it to other people so that, Father, your truth moves through the Brazos Valley. And we ask you that in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Bye