

AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 1

There are people with a reputation for delivering results; they are known for getting things done. They love beyond measure, they are present, and they make a difference wherever they are. At the same time, some people struggle to get things done. There is a general lack of capacity around them, and you always need a plan B in place, as there is a chance they will not come through.

- I believe that one of the great marks of a disciple of Jesus is that, like their master Jesus, they get things done. Disciples of Jesus have a great capacity to meet needs around them.
- In other words, if you are a true disciple of Jesus, you are an extension of Jesus. In other words, there are Jesus traits that people come looking for. In Matthew 17, a father with a demon possessed child came to the disciples of Jesus for them to heal his son.
- The big question we need to deal with this morning is this: how does one get to be like Jesus when it comes to being impactful in this life, and this will be the subject of my talk this morning – I want to talk to you on the subject matter, **AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE**.
- Jesus never failed anyone whilst He was here on earth, and He is not about to start now. When Jairus, a synagogue ruler from Capernaum, came to Jesus regarding his sick girl, Jesus did not disappoint; the little girl was raised from the dead. When the Centurion came to Jesus regarding his ill servant, the servant was healed. When Jesus was asked to intervene after a woman was found in the act of adultery, the woman's life was spared.
- If you are here and you feel like Jesus has let you down, I want to encourage you to keep the faith because the Jesus I know always comes through for His own.
- High-capacity disciples are well acquainted with the Lord Jesus.
- This capacity I am talking about is not because the disciples of Jesus have something special about them.
- Your capacity and grace to respond to the needs around you is premised on who you know and not how strong you are.
- I have always said that Jesus is not looking for someone who is capable, but rather He is looking for someone who is available, and I want to add and say someone who is relational.
- That is why this morning, we are talking about acquainted disciples.
- In the Bible, to "acquaint" oneself means to gain knowledge, become familiar with, and develop an intimate, personal relationship with someone or something.
- In other words, to acquaint yourself with Jesus means to become deeply familiar with Him, resulting in a oneness with Him.

Philippians 3:10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

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- When you are well acquainted with someone, you have a profound experiential knowledge of the person, which goes beyond superficial or surface knowledge.
- The degree to which you are acquainted with Jesus is the degree to which you know and can obey His commands.
- When Jesus came onto the scene, we get to understand what this is all about:

Mark 3:13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons.

- Jesus came and picked those He wanted to be with so that He could spend time with them. Yes, He wanted them to go and become His extension, but before He could deploy them, He wanted to spend time with them.
- Relationship comes first before mission. We have many people who rush into the mission field without the requisite relationship with the Lord of the mission.
- We can never achieve anything worthwhile in the Kingdom unless we know the Lord of the Kingdom.
- He called to Himself uneducated people, such as fishermen. Fishermen were not held in high social regard; they were often seen as common, hardworking, and uneducated labourers rather than spiritual or intellectual leaders.
- He called the rejected ones of society, like Matthew the tax collector. Jesus was not looking for ability in people, but for people who could look and learn from Him.
- Jesus is more interested in what you are becoming than in what you can do for Him.
- Jesus wants you to become more like Him and this is achieved by being acquitted with Him.
- When John introduced Jesus, some of his disciples decided to follow Jesus instead of John and look at what they said on the onset:

John 1:35 Again, the next day afterward, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking upon Jesus as He walked, he says, Behold the Lamb of God! 37 And when the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following. "What do you want?" He asked. They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 "Come and see," He replied. So they went and saw where He was staying, and spent that day with Him.

- When Andrew and Peter realised it was the Messiah, they immediately followed Him. When Jesus asked them what they wanted, their answer was profound: "master, where do you stay..."
- One would have thought that they would ask about what the Messiah can do and how they can access the power to change the world.

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- Whatever you do, never be motivated by power or anointing, but rather be motivated by the depth of your relationship with Jesus.
- In the kingdom of God, relationship comes before empowerment. In other words, empowerment is a byproduct of a relationship. Conception is a byproduct of intimacy – spiritual ideas are birthed in moments of intimacy with Jesus. The anointing is imparted during moments of deep fellowship with Jesus.
- Let's take note of a few things regarding acquainted disciples:

1. They believe Jesus to be all-sufficient.

- When John introduced Jesus to the world, he called Him the Messiah, the lamb that takes away the sins of the world.
- Messiah had been promised in past generations, and the Jewish nation was eagerly waiting for the Messiah, the saviour.
- Now standing before them was the Messiah. Andrew and John believed that Jesus surpassed John, and John had completed his race; it was now time to embrace the promise.
- When you are sick and there is a friend who can heal, you will stick around that person. If you're financially poor and a friend is extremely wealthy, you'll likely stick around to learn how to access some of that wealth.

John 1: 37 And when the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

- Many people will never pay the price to know Christ because they have not believed that He is all-sufficient.
- Get me right, I am not saying we must seek Jesus to get stuff from Him, but rather I am saying we must seek Him for who He is.
- We seek Him because He is not like the bread of life, but He is the bread of life, He is not like light, but He is the light of the world, He is not the direction to God, but rather He is the way, He is not like the truth, but He is the truth.
- They went to Jesus because He was the fullness of God's promises.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or [b]powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

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John 1:38 Jesus turned and saw them following. "What do you want?" He asked. They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 "Come and see," He replied. So they went and saw where He was staying, and spent that day with Him.

- In verse 39, we see that the two disciples spent the whole day with Jesus. If you are using the Roman time system, it was around 10 am, implying it was a full day that they spent time with Jesus.
- This is a long time to spend with a person you just met. Acquainted disciples are:

2. Invest enough time with Jesus.

- These disciples were not interested in a shallow conversation with Jesus, and a deeper conversation could not be had in public. It required sitting down and fully understanding what the master was all about.
- When they went to where Jesus was staying, it was not an in-and-out interaction but rather, they spent the whole day with Jesus.
- Acquainted disciples are generous with their time when it comes to Jesus. They are never in a rush; they take their time with Jesus.
- What I am saying here is nothing new, but we ought to be reminded to place God right at the centre of our time.
- There is a permanence that is required if we are to acquaint ourselves with Jesus. The longer you spend time with someone, the more you think you like them.

John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

- Your heart must be full of Jesus when you leave your house if you stand a chance to see Him at work on your behalf.
- Yes, we have been told that its not about the quantity of time but rather the quality of time. I believe it is both. You can't tell me you know your wife well after only being married for 2 years. If it does not work in nature, it is not going to work in the spirit.
- We can never fully know God, but we can start to have a level of knowledge of who He is.
- People don't know Jesus, that is why our lives don't make much progress – the key to knowing Jesus is simply to spend time with Him.
- There is no one who increased in their knowledge of Jesus without spending time with Him.
- Moses has a lot to teach us regarding investing time in the presence of God

Exodus 34:28 (NIV) Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the

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covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.

- Moses was human, just like you and me and fasting was painful for him, but he stayed there as God was giving him the commandments.
- The commands of God are clear when we spend enough time with him. It becomes easy to follow instructions. Instructions come with authority and power to enable you to execute them.
- His face changed because of the glory of God that rubbed onto him. Listen to me, we can only become like God by spending time with him.
- In the New Testament, we have Mary who just wanted to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Luke 10:38 (ESV) Now, as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving.

- Mary refused to be distracted. You will always find something requiring your time, but be determined to prioritise Jesus.
- Jesus wanted the disciples to Him first before He could send them out. He wanted to be with them and then to send them out with power.