
HARVEST

Harvest Week # 3: Disciple or Crowd?



There is an abundant harvest that God is seeking to cultivate. It happens slowly, silently, steadily, all at God's direction in God's good timing. Too often we think that the parable of the harvest is about the soils. But it's really all about the Sower and the Seed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On Sunday we learned a little bit about secrets. Why do people love to "be in on" a good secret?
2. On Sunday, we learned about the difference between a disciple and the crowds, and that relationship has to come before recognition. Without relationship with God, trying to understand why God works the way God works is next to impossible. **Read Philippians 4:10-20.**

Paul shares the secret of faith in this passage - what is it? Why is this the secret of faith? What does doing all things through Christ mean? How does one do this?

3. Dallas Willard, a great writer and theologian once said, *"For at least several decades the churches of the Western world have not made discipleship a condition of being a Christian. One is not required to be, or intend to be, a disciple in order to become a Christian, and one may remain a Christian without any signs of progress toward or in discipleship. Contemporary American churches in particular do not require following Christ in his example, spirit and teachings as a condition of membership – either entering into or continuing in fellowship of a denomination or a local church....Discipleship In the heart of a disciple there is a desire and there is a decision or settled intent. The disciple of Christ desires above all else to be like him..."*

Do you agree or disagree? Discuss as a group. Does this quote challenge you in your level of commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ? If so, how, if not, why not?

4. **Read Luke 8:8-10.** Why does Jesus give the crowds one level of understanding and his disciples another? What might this say about our own spiritual journey? Is Jesus' desire to keep people away, or not disclose to them the truth of the gospel? Discuss.
5. Take time to pray as a group. Pray for deeper discipleship and commitment to Christ.

BE THE REVOLUTION

The crowds seek a quick fix, whereas disciples fix their eyes on a relationship with Christ.

RENOVATING THE HEART

I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:12-13).