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| **SERIES** | **DISCIPLE 101** |
| **BIBLE** | **Mark 8:27-38** |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **Authentic Disciples** |
| **OVERVIEW** | Many people today claim to be disciples or followers of Jesus. But what are the characteristics of authentic disciples? What sets authentic disciples apart from others who claim to be followers? Jesus, while teaching his first disciples lays out some of the characteristics of authentic disciples that will help us identify what it means to be an authentic disciple. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **JESUS’ TEACHING ON AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES:**   1. **AN AUTHENTIC DISCIPLE MUST FIRST WRESTLE WITH AND ANSWER A FOUNDATIONAL QUESTION OF WHO THEY THINK JESUS IS**.   **Mark 8:27-38**  *27Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”**28They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”**29“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”**Peter answered, “You are the Messiah. 30Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.*  Depending on your answer will determine if you are an authentic disciple or not. Who do you think Jesus is?   1. **AN AUTHENTIC DISCIPLE ACCEPTS GOD’S PLAN EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND IT OR EVEN AGREE WITH IT.**   *31He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.32He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.*  *33But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”*  It is so easy for us not to understand God’s way fully. God has a plan, and He can be fully trusted.  Peter clearly did not understand God’s plan and was looking at it purely from a human perspective. Jesus ultimately rebuked him. He had “*merely human concerns”* and did not have God’s plan and purposes in mind.  **Isaiah 55:9**  *“As the heavens are higher than the earth,     so are my ways higher than your ways     and my thoughts than your thoughts.*  **Proverbs 14:12**  *There is a way that appears to be right,     but in the end it leads to death.*  We are known for trying to do things apart from God’s way from the tower of Babel in Genesis through modern day history we always try to live life apart from God’s way and perspective. True disciples seek to see our lives through God’s redemptive lens. Apart from God and His Plan there is no other plan. Thus the strong rebuke by Jesus to Peter…*“Get behind me, Satan!”*   1. **AN AUTHENTIC DISCIPLE EMBRACES THE WAY OF THE CROSS BY DENYING THEMSELVES, TAKING UP THEIR CROSS, AND FOLLOWING JESUS.**   *34Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For whoever wants to save their life[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+8%3A27-38&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24536a)*] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.36What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*  Jesus teaching to his disciples as he uses the word *“Whoever”* clearly gives an invitation to follow him. But if they want to be Jesus’ disciple they must put into practice three things:   * *deny themselves –*   **To Deny =** to affirm that one has no acquaintance or connection with someone; to forget one's self, lose sight of one's self and one's own interests   * *take up their cross –*   Pick up an instrument of death. Seek to live out a resurrected life.  Paul was a great example of this.  **Galatians 2:20**  ***20****I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*   * *follow me (Jesus) –*   Following is hard to do nowadays. Everybody wants to do their own decided thing.  **ILLUST: PLAYING FOLLOW THE LEADER AS KIDS –** Do you remember playing follow the leader as a kid. Didn’t everyone want to lead but no one wanted to follow.  Following Jesus involves an intimate relationship with a posture of learning. To put yourself in a place of learning from THE MASTER!  **Why should this so important to us?**  *35For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.36What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*  There is so much at stake. But authentic disciples understand and seek to practice the seriousness of Jesus’ words to the crowd that day. |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  The Gospel is for the “Whosoever’s” in the crowd. It is not good enough to claim. The word disciple means a follower or to place yourself in a place or position to learn from someone else to ultimately become like that person. The power of the Gospel is that it is GOOD NEWS! Good News means that God has done something on our behalf so that we can receive something that we don’t deserve based on something that He did for us when He died on a Cross. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  Begin – some of you need to begin this process of discipleship by surrendering your way for His way.  Discipleship involves all of the GPS steps. |