

Discipleship Part 2 (Mike Kaye, CE Elder)

“**Follow Me.**” That was cited in last week’s “mini-lesson” as an example of Jesus calling directly to a person; in that case it was to Philip in John 1:43. But the call to follow has been and is repeatedly directed to each of us as well.

So, what does that mean to **you**? Was/is His call a command; an invitation; a plea? IMO the answer is YES -- all of the above! But what does it mean to *follow*?

Today, “follow” can mean to track, as “where is Jesus shown as working in the world today?” Or to mark it on FaceScroll (er, Book), as in “Wow--I see that Jesus fed 5,000; wish I had been there!” Or “I’m following Him at my own pace (or at a distance); if I get too close He might ask more than I can take on right now.”

But that’s not what Jesus meant by “follow.” His call was for walking with Him thru every part of every day; watching Him; eating with Him; dialoguing with Him; and responding to the Holy Spirit’s urgings. It was a call to intimacy in thoughts, joys and fears--the type of intimacy that bonds hearts and minds -- and souls.

Above all, following Jesus is not passive, easy or comfortable. Following Jesus is **active**. Matthew 16:24 tells us that to follow Him, we must deny self and take up our cross--that is challenging and like Pastor Susan preached last week, can take you out of your comfort zone. [One mild example of getting a little out of your comfort zone might be to get up an hour earlier than normal to attend a Sunday 9 A.M. Bible class--unpaid CE promotion.] Note that Jesus never hid the truth, even saying the world would hate us because we follow Him (John 15:18-19).

Active is where faith and grace lead us to a repentant life of discipleship which constantly changes us to be ever more like Jesus (1 John 3:2). *Active* is heeding Jesus’ words (Matthew 7:24-27). *Active* is showing we *believe* in Jesus--the meaning of the Greek *pisteuo* translated *believe* in multiple places like John 1:12, Romans 10:9 and 1 John 3:23 includes *trusting* and *obeying*.

Active is sharing God’s love with others in fervent prayer, service and testimony to those within and without the HPC community. *Active* is setting a routine for studying your Bible--a primary way of knowing about God, all He has done, is doing and will do--which is essential for building a personal relationship with each member of the Holy Trinity. It’s like building a relationship with a spouse or other close friend--to be really close you must know their likes & dislikes, share moments, and interact often.

Our new HPC motto proclaims *Rooted in Faith, Growing in Christ*. I think you will find that as you grow in Christ, you will also grow in Faith--**work at both!**

Bible Classes Starting!!

- **Everyone is welcome: Member or Visitor; Novice or Scholar!**
 - **Not lectures, but discussions & sharing**
 - **Focus on understanding to apply to your walk with Jesus**
 - **Build fellowship with others**
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Sunday, 9 am: Sermon topic of the day; starts September 20; Lounge

- Discusses background and key points of the day’s Scripture texts
 - Invites your experiences of how those texts have impacted your life
 - Cher Kaye; mk21122@verizon.net; (410) 437-9396
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Sunday, 9 am: Book of Romans; starts September 20; Library

- Applying Paul’s teachings to our modern church and modern living
 - Romans is surprisingly relevant to how we should direct our church happenings as well as our own daily lives.
 - Paul reminds us how to deal with committees and community equally and well.
 - Using Paul’s Letters to the Early Church by Trina Bresser Matous; cost: book \$21.52; Kindle \$7.99; if the cost is problematic please contact Melissa
 - Melissa Vande Mark; Mjvandemark@comcast.net (410) 553-0515
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Monday, 2:30 pm; Book of Revelation; starts September 14; Lounge

- Revelation is a book of hope; no matter how bad it gets--God wins!
- Notes will be available, usually in advance; if you can’t attend, please take the notes from the Sanctuary hallway or download from the HPC Facebook page or web site for personal home study.
- If interested in joining on-line via phone or internet, contact Mike.
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