

**THIS IS A PRAYER OF THE JEWS THAT RELATES TO OUR STUDY TODAY.**

**BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD OUR GOD, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS GRANTED US LIFE, SUSTAINED US AND ENABLED US TO REACH THIS OCCASION. AMEN**

**We're still in a powerful series called In the Dust of the Rabbi. I think we retain more when things are repeated so let me recap some of the key points from what we've learned so far.**

### **LESSON 1 – “WHEN THE RABBI SAYS COME”**

**Jesus' picked ordinary people without the classical form of education who he believed that by the grace of God he could lead to become his disciples.**

**Jesus picked Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Phillip from a small, rural village called Bethsaida in Galilee to become his first disciples.**

**And they went when he said come because they believed in him.**

**Remember: A student is not above his teacher: It is enough for a student to be like his teacher.**

**Discipleship in the Christian sense is the process of teaching someone to become more like Christ, in other words like their rabbi, or teacher in this series. The Bible that tells us who Jesus is, who we are, and how to live with a fire and passion to be like him in a community based on mutual support and encouragement of one another.**

**So, discipleship is teacher, text, community, and passion to be like Jesus.**

**MY CONCLUSION IS THAT IF A DISCIPLE LEARNS BY FOLLOWING HIS TEACHER, THEN EVERY MAN HERE IS A DISCIPLE BECAUSE HE IS HERE THIS MORNING TO LEARN AND ACT MORE LIKE OUR TEACHER, JESUS. AMEN.**

## **LESSON 2 – “WHEN THE RABBI SAYS GO”**

When Peter asked Jesus to come to him as he walked on the water, Jesus said, “Come.” (Matthew 14:29) Jesus used the example of Peter walking on water and his faltering attempt, as an example of how Peter’s lack of faith in Jesus’s helping hand caused him to sink.

The lesson was that whoever is in Jesus must walk in faith. “For we walk in faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor 5:7)

The appearance of the city of Scythopolis with its grandeur would have been confounding to Jesus’s disciples. Jesus had picked men from a little fishing village instead of men from that place where people seemed to have it all – wealth, power, happiness, and success — the point being that his disciples had something that those big city folks needed, and that Jesus had picked men from that city, they would have likely remained like the Scythians with a different god.

### **TO DIGRESS FOR A MINUTE**

In honor of our esteemed Professor of Geology, Al Hurt, I thought I’d mention something that has spanned centuries of time. Some people are visual in nature, so what would help convince them that places really existed as they were described in the Bible? Here’s one example.

Concrete made of limestone has been discovered in Israel dating back to as early as 7000 BC, in Egypt as early as 2500 BC, in Hellenic Greece as early as 900 BC and in Rome in 600 BC. So, what is significant about that? The fact is that without concrete that has lasted for thousands of years we might have never had the artifacts we see today that confirm the descriptions that are contained in the Bible. In fact, concrete was the Roman Empire's construction material of choice.

In contrast, the concrete we make today may only last 100 years. But in an article published exactly one month ago, it talks about an MIT discovery that offers a possible reason for the difference in longevity of ancient concrete.

Researchers are now focused on a common ingredient in the ancient concrete: bright white chunks of mineral known as lime clasts which are not used today in making concrete.

Here’s my question for you. Is it possible that God enabled many of those ancient structures to remain standing so we can rely on what the Bible says about them? I’m just asking and let Al address that question sometime.

## **TODAY'S LESSON 3 – “THE PRESENCE OF GOD”**

### **SUMMARY:**

When the disciples went into territories to evangelize where other gods were deified, they encountered a counter cultural environment based on a class system where their citizens were treated differently from one another based on their status in society.

So how did they deal with their situation without challenging the authority of those other gods by refusing to engage in the local practices of sacrifice?

They continued their practice of community and met in what we call a home church today. In essence, they practiced what Paul said. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2.)

Paul also said “we ... belong to the household of faith.” (Gal 6:10)

So, not only did the early disciples bring the message of good news, but also demonstrated to the world what it meant to follow Jesus by the way they continued to live in community.

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Now, just to add a little humor to our discussion, I'd like to deviate from the lesson to compare one of today's success stories about discipleship with the one we're studying.

### **SHOW THE AMWAY VIDEO**

**AFTER THINKING ABOUT AMWAY'S APPROACH TO DOING BUSINESS, I THINK WE SHOULD CALL THIS VIDEO THE “I AM THE WAY” COMPANY AS IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THEIR MULTI-LEVEL BUSINESS STRATEGY WAS COPIED STRAIGHT OUT OF THE BIBLE**

**THINK ABOUT IT.**

**OUR BIG BOSS ENGAGED A FEW STRANGERS TO SELL HIS PRODUCT CALLED ‘THE GOOD NEWS’ AND THEY IN TURN ENCOURAGED OTHER STRANGERS TO JOIN THEIR SALES ORGANIZATION, AND SO ON AND SO ON. IT'S A SIMPLE FORMULA — TAKE A GREAT PRODUCT AND BUILD AN EVER-EXPANDING ORGANIZATION OF SALESPeOPLE TO SELL IT. HOW BEAUTIFUL IS THAT?**

**BUT SERIOUSLY, HOW ARE WE GOING TO HELP OUR CUSTOMERS UNDERSTAND OUR PRODUCT? BY EVANGELISM, RIGHT?**

**[SHOW THE VIDEO ABOUT HOW WE CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL \(GOOD NEWS\) WITH TOTAL STRANGERS](#)**

**IF YOU WANT TO SEE MORE VIDEOS ON THIS SUBJECT, GO TO  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQvzOSHUKlo>**

**JUST A NOTE ABOUT THE GREEK WORD EUANGELION WHICH MEANS 'GOOD NEWS.' (NOTE THE WORD ANGEL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORD EUANGELION) AFTER EVERY VICTORY THE KING SENT A MESSENGER OUT TO DECLARE THE GOOD NEWS, HENCE OUR WORD EVANGELISM.**

**THE MESSAGE OF OUR GOOD NEWS IS A BATTLE CRY AGAINST THE BONDS OF OUR SIN.**

**NOW, HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AROUND YOUR TABLES**

- 1. HOW DO YOU COPE WITH LIVING IN OUR COUNTER CULTURAL SOCIETY OF TODAY?**
- 2. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN YOUR HOUSE/OUR COMMUNITY?**
- 3. HOW HAVE YOU PRESENTED THE GOSPEL TO SOMEONE?**
- 4. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU THROUGH THESE MESSAGES TODAY?**