

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Live Anew: Choosing Wisely

Luke 9:23-25

Tim Wade

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- Values are our core beliefs that determine the choices we make.
- If we want to be Jesus' disciples, we must let Jesus lead *every day* in *every aspect* of our life. We must make choices in our life that are in line with Jesus' leadership. If we cling to our own values and old way of life, the reality is that we will not be able to live the new life we have in Christ. (Romans 7:19).
- Jesus is calling us to reorder our values. However, this will not necessarily happen quickly or smoothly. When we face difficulties making choices that are aligned to Jesus' values and teachings, that may not be failure – rather, it may be an invitation to deeper spiritual formation and growth – which is our personal discipleship.
- The way to deeper spiritual formation and growth is closer apprenticeship with Jesus: *being with Him, becoming like Him* and *doing what He does* (Luke 6:40), beginning with our values and attitudes. We will make progress when we make a choice *decisively* and then *do it!*
- Patterns of repeated behaviour reveal our values. Are we making choices for ourselves, or do we let Jesus lead us? Are we making choices for our children that show that they are led by Jesus and hence, imitating Him? If not, are we humble enough to accept correction? In John 14:15-17, 26 and John 15:5, Jesus teaches us that creating space and time in our lives is non-negotiable and we are to let the Holy Spirit correct and guide us.
- Questions for self-examination to deepen our discipleship:
 - ✓ What story am I really living inside right now – and who is shaping it?
 - ✓ When was the last time I allowed Jesus – or another person – to challenge something I didn't want to change?
 - ✓ Do the people closest to me experience me as present, attentive and safe?
 - ✓ Where is my attention going – and what does that reveal about what I value most?
 - ✓ What does faithfulness to Jesus look like for me in this season – and what might I need to say "no" to in order to live it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. When was the last time you allowed Jesus – or another person – to challenge something you didn't want to change?

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REFLECT

2. The Bible records many situations where a person's actions reflected their values – some right, some wrong. In many cases, God corrected those who had the wrong values. What can we learn from them?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Genesis 20:1-18; 2 Samuel 11:2-6 & 12:1-9 (& Psalm 51); Jonah 4:1-11]

RESPOND

3. In your quiet time for the next two weeks, reflect on the questions in the sermon synopsis under "Questions for self-examination to deepen our discipleship". The next time you meet as a Connect Group, share an answer from one of those questions that helped you deepen your discipleship.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise God for giving us new life in Christ and enabling us to escape our old life without God.
- Thank God for patiently correcting us each time we make poor choices.
- Ask God to show us where we have the wrong values and guide us into making the right choices – personally, as a family, and as a CG. (Note: If you would like to grow in prayer, extend your prayer to our nation, Singapore!)

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."" [Luke 9:23]