

Finding God through the Word*John 8:31-32*

Are you a disciple of Jesus? How can one even tell? This is an important question, because Jesus calls each of us to be his disciple. Not only are we to be disciples personally, he also gave us the mission to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20) and only those who are true disciples can make disciples. And so much is at stake! In this study we are looking at a passage in which Jesus gives a very simple way to tell if we are disciples. It all centers on how we relate to His teachings.

Opening Discussion: How was the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for you?

Read John 8:31-38

1. How does Jesus define who is truly a disciple?
2. What does it mean to abide in Jesus word (v. 31)?
3. What does Jesus say is the result or fruit of abiding in His word?
4. What kind of freedom is Jesus talking about?

Steve said:

How would you evaluate yourself? Ask yourself the question: ***Am I truly a disciple of Jesus?*** Are you seeking to make Jesus' words (and the rest of Scripture) the dominant influence in your life? Or, if you're honest, would you have to say that Jesus' teachings have relatively little influence in your life? I'm not asking whether you are abiding in Jesus' teachings perfectly. I'm asking whether you can honestly say that are seeking to have the mind of Christ by abiding in His teachings.

5. How would you evaluate yourself? Do Jesus' words have a dominant influence in your life?

Read John 15:7; Matthew 7:24-27

6. What do these passages say about the how Scripture will affect our lives if we are allowing it to abide in us?

Steve said:

What really matters is not where you are right now; what matters is what you do next - whether you engage your will and pursue being a disciple or whether you shrug your shoulders and remain complacent.

7. What do you need to do next? What do you WANT to do next? In what ways do you need to engage your will and pursue walking as Jesus' disciple?
8. What if you really are complacent about this issue? Is there anything you can do to move from complacency to desire?



Reading for the week ahead: Next week we will start a sermon series on the book of James. We would encourage you to read James this week. You could read the whole book each day or you could read one chapter a day.