

Focus: Discipleship: The reason for this series.

1. **Review:** Created, Captured, Rescued, Response
 - a. Kerygma → Proclamation
2. **This week and next: Discipleship** (the reason for the series)
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20 → *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”*
 - i. The one task given to the Church’s ministers. The one task given to me.
 - ii. **My dream:** Three parishes full of disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - iii. An insight: Jesus talks about it differently than we do: *it’s a privilege, not a right.*
 1. He establishes the terms. Not all will agree with the terms.
 2. Examples: Luke 14:25-27; Matthew 10:37-39
 3. 1 Peter 2:7-8; John 3:36; Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 7:21
 - iv. Are you a disciple of Jesus? Do you want to be one?
 1. Data: 5% of Catholics are disciples. How has the one task gone?
3. **What’s a disciple?** Define the word:
 - a. One who learns from and adopts the way of life of the Lord/Master.
 - i. Is Jesus your Lord? Do you learn from him?
 - b. Someone who is striving to bring every area of his/her life under the Lordship of Jesus.
 - i. Words, actions, thoughts, living situation, relationships, marriage, finances, movies/shows, music, places you go, hobbies, how you treat people, how you spend your days
 - ii. Striving: imperfect, but putting forth great effort
 1. Are you striving?
 - c. Someone who steps out of the crowd
 - i. “Even though everyone else or most people are doing this, I won’t.”
 - ii. “Even though most people don’t do this, I will.”
 1. Have you stepped out of the crowd?
 - d. Someone who thinks differently...who thinks like Jesus.
 - i. Always with eternity in mind (rope, cave, etc)
 1. Do you always make your decisions with eternity in mind?
4. **What are some characteristics of a disciple of Jesus Christ?**
 - a. First and foremost: Obedience to Jesus and his Church. Luke 6:46; Luke 10:16; Matthew 28:20
 - b. Acts 2:42 → Devoted to the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer
 - i. Devotion: love, loyalty, or enthusiasm toward something
 - ii. Teaching of the Apostles: Regular engagement with Scripture and Catholic Doctrine
 - iii. Fellowship: Time spent with other disciples of Jesus (not just with anyone)
 - iv. The Breaking of Bread: Mass (at least on Sundays)...and other Sacraments (e.g. Confession)
 - v. Prayer: Daily time with Jesus
5. **An apology.**
 - a. We’ve seen the leaders of the Church fail many times throughout history.
 - b. Church leaders haven’t built a culture of discipleship.
 - i. How have the past 60 years gone? Very, very poorly.
 - c. The best way to bring about the change we need: become disciples of Jesus.
6. **Next week:** Disciples make disciples.

Reflection Questions and Reading:

1. Have you surrendered your life to Jesus and his Church yet?
2. What is a step you can take toward discipleship?
3. **Read:** Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Romans 1:16