

Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Day 1- Disciples of Jesus Christ

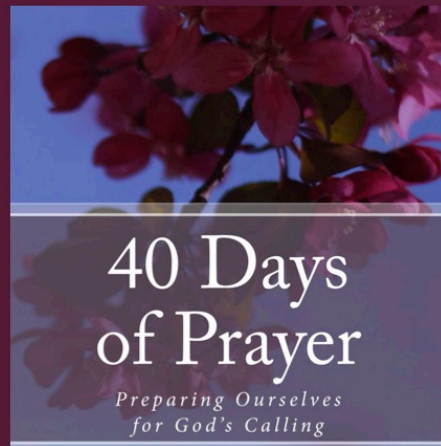
Luke 5:27-28


"Follow me."

How simple Jesus' call to discipleship really is.... simple, short, direct, invitational. Some of the first invitees were delighted that such an important Rabbi would invite them to follow. Others, when they learned more about Jesus' teachings, said, "no thanks." Imagine Jesus Christ looking directly at you, inviting you to make him Lord of your entire life, and saying, "Come on, follow me."

As you begin this spiritual journey, where you start is important. What do you do with Jesus' invitation? How important is it for you? What would it mean for your life if you answered Jesus' call at a deeper level and a more significant way than ever before? What does fully devoted discipleship look like for you?

Prayer Thought: What does it mean for me to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ?



 Mark Tidsworth

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Thursday, March 7th

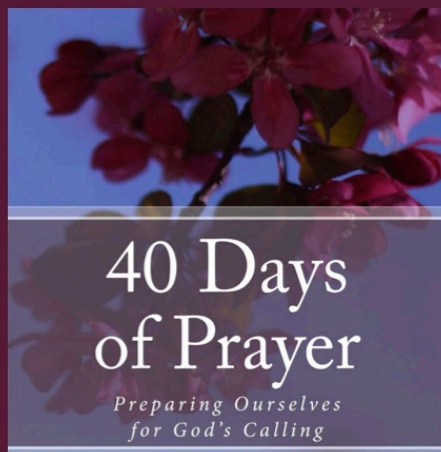
Day 2- Gathering Around the Messiah


Matthew 16:13-20

That's it. That's the confession we gather around: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." This is the confession, the awareness, the foundation that God builds the Church upon. God commissioned a living, breathing organism called the Church to live out this confession day by day. Jesus is very confident in the Church's perseverance and power...nothing can stand against it; nothing can deter its purpose from being accomplished.

You are the Church, which Jesus established. You are part of God's body in the world. Rejoice!

Prayer Thought: Lord, what makes a church a church? First, it is a group of people gathered around Christ, staking their lives on the confession of Jesus as Lord. But then what?



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Friday, March 8th

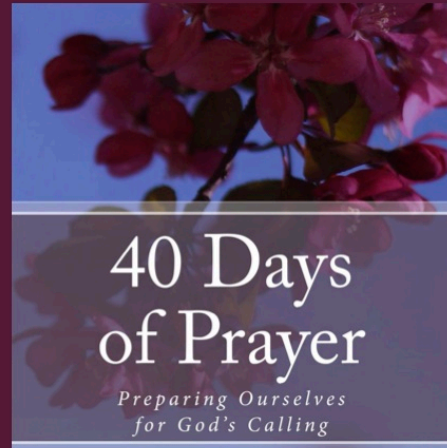
Day 3 – Praying In Faith

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask – Search – Knock. Jesus paints a picture of a loving parent who wants to give good gifts to his/her children. We parents can relate to that. We naturally want to provide well for our children, giving them every advantage in life we can. We hope this will equip them with a good beginning to a long and happy life.

God wants the same for us. How willing are you to pray with faith, with anticipation, with trust that God will answer? Do you believe in prayer as a spiritual discipline, which influences you and others? Are you willing to pray in a way that makes you vulnerable to the prayer's answer?

Prayer Thought: Describe to God your perspective on prayer. Consider inviting God to grow your faith as you pray.



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Saturday, March 9th

Day 4 – Limited By Unbelief

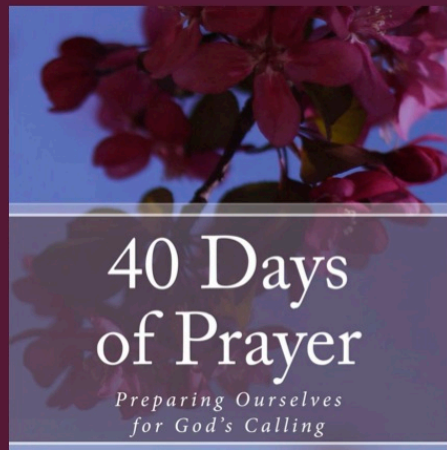
Mark 6:1-6


Jesus was limited by their unbelief. Surely God can do great deeds without the belief of humankind as an ingredient in the mix! Surely so. But it appears as if God has chosen to include the faith of disciples as an ingredient in the mix. Why? We don't exactly know.

For some reason, God wanted to include disciples in God's mission of redemption and transformation. Prayer is a primary tool of this work.

Perhaps we can hold God back when we think small or skeptically about what can happen. Our unbelief, along with our belief, is part of the mix. Since that is so, our trust and faith actually influence the success of God's mission. How do you feel about that?

Prayer Thought: Consider what you believe God cannot do in you and in your church. Consider surrendering this belief to God.



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