



GOING DEEPER

The Cost of Disciple Making 2 Timothy 2:1-7



A couple weeks ago we talked about counting the costs. As disciples of Jesus we have to count the costs in order to follow him. Part of that, as we will see in 2 Timothy 2, is there are costs we have to take into consideration when it comes to making disciples.

In Paul's final letter, his last recorded words, he shares really important things with his son in the faith, Timothy. He tells him he will have to count several costs in order to make disciples. Here are the ones we will look at in the text that we pull from the soldier, the farmer and the athlete.

1. Opposition - "Strong" means to be "inwardly strengthened," suggesting strength in soul and purpose." When many were falling away or compromising the faith, Paul wanted Timothy to stand strong. This was important for Timothy to hear as his natural disposition seemed to be timidity. He needed to hear this exhortation and so do we. "Be strong" is passive "indicating that the source of Timothy's strength was not in himself but in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2. Focus - How can we as a community of faith get off message? Or, to put it another way, what are some things that churches tend to focus on when they forget the centrality of Jesus risen from the dead?

3. Pleasing Others – We should show Christ Love to everyone around us and when Jesus is our commanding officer that we make sure we are focused and on mission.

4. Perseverance -How did Paul's ability to remember God's work through Jesus Christ help him keep his bearings while being in prison awaiting his execution? Why is "remembering" so important in the Christian life? What makes it so difficult for you?

5. Intentionality -We all tend to shrink back when life gets hard. How can you learn from Paul's exhortation to Timothy to have confidence in God's purposes and plan amid

difficult circumstances? How can we help one another to be confident in God's love and purpose?

6. Time -How do you arrange your calendar for God's purpose for your life? Everyone has 168 hours a week. What changes do you need to make in your calendar?

We can't be disciple makers, unless our hearts have experienced a change inwardly. Unless the gospel is alive inside of us, we won't be on mission, or we'll at least be dysfunctional, or maybe even legalistic.

How does this text apply to our community?

How does this text help us understand God's mission in our community? If we really believed that Jesus has risen from the dead, how would that prepare us to suffer for Jesus in our community? What might that look like? How does this passage serve as an invitation to the world to join God's mission?

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

9 For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. **11** Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have believed.

We do not graduate from the gospel, but rather what God has done in Jesus is the power of God for salvation. Through the gospel we enter the kingdom of God and through the gospel we are changed. So when we struggle with pride, division or getting caught up in things of this world, when it comes down to it our struggle is to accurately believe and respond to the gospel because that alone is what saves and shapes us as the people of God.

Final Thoughts This Week on this Passage:

What is God inviting you into through this passage? What do you feel like God has been saying to you through this scripture and this week's message?

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling?

IN YOUR QUIET TIME THIS WEEK:

Take time thank God for the circumstances He used to give you new life through the gospel.

Take time to thank God for the ways you've seen His faithfulness amid difficulty.

Ask God for the Spirit's help you remember that God is faithful and has purpose in every trial or hardship to see the Gospel preserved for another generation.

Ask God to use this message to strengthen our hope in God and enliven a fearlessness to live for Him.

Notes and Reflections: