

Sermon Series: Transformation

Sermon: Discipleship: The Call

Scriptures: Ephesians 4:13-16, Luke 8:8

Who were your childhood heroes? What did you do to try and become like them? How far did you go?

When you heard the call to follow Jesus, what did you hear in that call?

- Where did you think it would lead you?
- Has your understanding of that call grown or changed?
- * How do you understand Matthew 4:19 as it applies to you personally? The church?

There has been debate over the years about whether you can have Jesus as your Savior if you don't make him your Lord. How would you answer that question? What Scriptures would you cite?

- Here are some Scriptures that are food for thought:
 - o Matthew 7:21–23
 - o Luke 6:46–49
 - o James 2:14-26

Which aspects of Christian maturity – knowledge, relationships, engaging the mission – are the most challenging to your growth in discipleship? Why do you think that is?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

- How does this passage relate to what came before it in chapter 12?
- Where does love rank in relation to all spiritual gifts and miraculous works and service in the church?
- Don't those other things gain you anything?
- Why are many churches places where love does not seem to be expressed well or valued as the greatest good?
- * So then - how do we better pursue the practices of love together? (Please share any really good answers to this question with your pastors!)
- Where / how can you get the resources needed to love as described in verses 4-7?

What have been the most helpful elements in your walk of faith as you have pursued maturity in Christ? What do you think might be helpful that you have not yet experienced? (Again, good answers are forwarded to the pastors!)

Read Matthew 21:33 – 44

- Who was this parable primarily directed to?
- What was the objective of the landowner?
- Who is implied in verse 43? What makes them distinct from the first group of tenants? How do you see yourself as part of that group?
- How many different kinds of fruit are there that grow from a life of faith?
- What other metaphors or lessons of multiplication can you think of from the Scriptures?
- * What are some ways that you can challenge yourself and others to "be fruity"? What are some concrete steps you can take to move in that direction?

Are you, or have you been a "disciple," apprentice, or student of any other field or discipline? What components bring growth in those areas that could apply to your pursuit of spiritual maturity?