

## Sermon Study Notes – Key Points, Questions & Application

### Sermon – Come Be with Me: Discipleship, Community, and Mission.

#### *Sermon 3 in the Series – “Words to Live By”*

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### Key Scripture References

- **Mark 3:13–19** – Jesus appoints the Twelve: “He appointed 12 – that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.” *The two-fold purpose of discipleship in a single verse.*
- **Mark 1:17** – “Come, follow Me, and I will send you out to fish for people.” *The call of Simon and Andrew – discipleship and mission joined from the very first invitation.*
- **Mark 2:13–17** – The call of Levi (Matthew): Jesus immediately enters Matthew’s house with tax collectors and sinners. “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” *The vision of fishing for people takes visible shape.*
- **Psalms 67:1–2** – “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” *Blessing received is blessing that spills out.*
- **Genesis 12:1–3** – God’s covenant promise to Abram: “I will bless you... and you will be a blessing... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” *The thread that runs through all of Scripture.*
- **John 17:3** – “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” *Eternal life is relational knowing, not information.*
- **Matthew 28:19–20** – The Great Commission: “Go and make disciples of all the nations... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### Big Idea

**A disciple is someone who gets close to Jesus, with other people who are seeking to do the same, so that together we can join Jesus’ mission to extend his love and grace to others. These three are not sequential stages – they are one integrated life: gathering and scattering; being with Jesus; and being sent by Jesus.**

**A Note on This Sermon:** This sermon was preached by Steve Sage, Eastminster’s new Pastor of Ministries, Mission & Gospel Outreach, as his introductory message to the congregation. His role is intentionally integrative: discipleship and mission are not two separate things. Jesus formed his disciples *for* his mission. The life of the church and the mission of the church belong together in everything the church does.

### Christian Year Context & Series Connection

**Words to Live By – Sermon 3:** Last week we heard the word *Go* (Rev. Dan Martin, MAF). This week, our new Pastor of Ministries, Mission & Gospel Outreach roots that word in its deeper foundation: you cannot *Go* well without first knowing whom you are going with, and who you are going as. Discipleship is the soil from which mission grows.

### Last Week’s Sermon Review – “A Mission-Minded Believer: Go”

#### Three takeaways:

1. A mission-minded believer is available – willing to be inconvenienced, living with an awareness of others’ need for the gospel.

2. A mission-minded believer is resourceful – using every gift, skill, and resource God has given (individually and collectively) to bring others to the feet of Jesus.
3. A mission-minded believer is obedient – the Great Commission is a mandate for every follower of Jesus, not just missionaries and pastors. Prayer itself is the biggest work of the Great Commission.

**Key question carried forward:** If mission belongs to every disciple, what does it mean to be a disciple? What is discipleship actually for?

### **This Week’s Sermon – “Come Be with Me: Discipleship, Community, and Mission”**

#### **The Thread Through All of Scripture: Blessed to Be a Blessing**

*Psalm 67:1–2 – “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.”*

- **Psalm 67** opens by quoting the Aaronic benediction – God’s blessing over his covenant people. But it doesn’t stop there.
- It bridges the blessing received and the calling given: the purpose of blessing is that God’s ways become known *among all nations*.
- **Genesis 12:1–3:** God’s covenant with Abram – “I will bless you... and you will be a blessing... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” The thread runs from Genesis to Revelation.
- Discipleship is the fulfillment of God’s covenant purposes for his people. God intends his blessing toward us to spill out from us and bless others. We are not the end of the story. We are the means.

#### **What Is Discipleship? More Than Personal Spirituality.**

Most of us think of discipleship in terms of our personal growth – Bible study, devotions, small groups, Sunday school. All of that is essential. But discipleship is not less than personal spirituality; it is a whole lot more.

Mark’s gospel shows us from the very first chapter that to be a disciple of Jesus is to follow him and know him – **and there is also a larger purpose**. He wants to work in us so that he can work through us to make a spiritual difference in the lives of others.

#### **Three Aspects of What It Means to Be a Disciple (Mark 3:13–19)**

##### **1. A Disciple Gets Close to Jesus**

*“He appointed 12... that they might be with him.” (Mark 3:14)*

- **Be with Him** – those three words summarize the heart of the Christian faith. Not a philosophy of life. A relationship with the God who created us.
- From Genesis (God walking with Adam and Eve in the garden) to Revelation (God dwelling with his people face to face) – the unifying theme of all Scripture is that God creates us to be with us.
- **John 17:3:** “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom you have sent.” Eternal life is relational knowing – not information about God, not mere doctrine, but knowing him.
- The difference between knowing *about* someone and *knowing* them: no biography of a person compares to 35 years of marriage. That is what Jesus is offering.

- **An Eastminster Mark of discipleship:** *I connect daily with Jesus through Word and prayer.* I don't read the Bible or pray simply to gain information or check a box, but to be with Him. When you read Scripture, ask first: What does this teach me about God? How can I worship Him for this?

## 2. A Disciple Does This with Other People Who Are Seeking to Do the Same

*"He appointed 12 that they, collectively, might be with him."* (Mark 3:14)

- Jesus called 12 – not 8 or 10 or 15. Twelve has clear redemptive-historical significance: the 12 tribes of Israel. By calling 12, Jesus is restoring the people of God and forming the foundation of the new covenant church.
- You cannot be a healthy disciple of Jesus and not be in fellowship with God's people. When we come to know God as Father, he places us in a spiritual family. We have brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers in Christ.
- The New Testament picture of spirituality is corporate, relational, communal. Hundreds of commands: love one another, be devoted to one another, honor one another, teach one another, admonish one another, bear one another's burdens, forgive one another, submit to one another, encourage one another.
- We cannot fulfill those commands by attending a worship service and chatting for a few minutes before going our separate ways. The Scriptures call us to **do life together** in ways that go far deeper than that.
- **Eastminster Mark of discipleship:** *I do life with others who point me to Jesus.* Being embedded in a community where we get below the surface, understand each other's struggles, and walk with one another toward Jesus.
- The church is not a place you go to for spiritual services. The church is **the people of God with whom we walk to be with Jesus.**

## 3. So That We Can Join Jesus' Mission Together

*"He appointed 12... that He might send them out to preach."* (Mark 3:14)

- It's not one or the other – it's both. Being with Jesus and being sent by Jesus. Mission is not a secondary, separate, optional activity beyond discipleship.
- Jesus called his disciples to follow him *so that* they could join him in the mission. Discipleship that never sends is incomplete discipleship.
- **The inoculation danger:** If we are not making disciples who join Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost, we may be inoculating people against the real thing – giving them just enough biblical truth to feel good about their standing with God, while building immunity against the actual call of a disciple.
- **Eastminster core value:** *We all go.* Every disciple of Jesus is an ambassador of Christ – 24/7, wherever we go. We demonstrate the love of God in how we speak, act, and serve. We are ready to give a reason for the hope we have.
- We **gather** as a church to help one another experience Jesus through worship, Word, fellowship, and prayer. Then we **scatter** back into the world as his witnesses – where we live, work, and play. And when we gather again, we hope the family is larger than it was before.
- The Great Commission is not just to make disciples of the people already here. It is to make disciples of **all the nations** – beginning in Wichita, but reaching to the ends of the earth and to the end of the age.

## Personal Application: Habits of the Heart for Spiritual Growth

### The Takeaway This Week:

**Identify where you are in these three aspects – and take one concrete step deeper in the one that is weakest.**

- **Getting close to Jesus:** If your time in the Word and prayer has become information-gathering or a box to check, reorient it. Before you ask “what should I apply?” ask “what does this reveal about God?” Worship him for what you find.
- **Doing life with others:** Are you known below the surface by other believers at Eastminster? If not, take a step this week – join a small group, reach out to a fellow member, talk to the new pastor about how to connect. Don’t stay on the surface.
- **Joining the mission:** Where in your daily life – at work, in your neighborhood, in your family – are you actively seeking to demonstrate and share the love of God? Name one person and one context this week.
- **Pray Psalm 67:1–2:** “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us – so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” Let this be the heartbeat of your discipleship.

### Discussion Questions

1. **The sermon opened with the question: what comes to mind when you hear the word “discipleship”?** How has your understanding of discipleship been shaped primarily by personal spiritual growth? How does Mark 3:14 – “that they might be with Him and that He might send them out” – expand or challenge your understanding of discipleship and your vision of your own discipleship?
2. **John 17:3 says eternal life is knowing God – not knowing about Him.** What is the difference in your actual experience? Where has your relationship with Jesus felt like genuine knowing, and where has it slipped into information-gathering or obligation?
3. **The New Testament picture of spirituality is communal – hundreds of “one another” commands that cannot be fulfilled by attending a service and chatting briefly.** How deeply are you known by other believers at Eastminster? What would it take to move from the surface to something more like what the New Testament describes?
4. **The sermon named the danger of inoculation: giving people just enough biblical truth to make them immune from the real call of a disciple.** Where might that be true in your own life? Is mission integrated into your discipleship, or have you thought of it as optional – something for the especially courageous or called?
5. **Psalm 67:1–2 frames discipleship as: God blesses us so that his ways may be known among all nations.** How does that reframe the way you think about your own spiritual growth? What would it mean for the blessing you have received – in grace, in community, in the Word – to begin spilling out to others around you this week?