



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Be A Kingdom Disciple

SPEAKER Dr Cassie Carstens

THEME Kingdom Disciples

DATE 27 & 28 Jan 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Are You Ready To Be A Kingdom Disciple?

We often hear stories of people around the world being violently persecuted while spreading the Gospel and doing Good Works – but here in Singapore, it is less prevalent. Thus, we seldom reflect on whether we are willing to die for our calling. Are we then still Kingdom Disciples? In his sermon, Dr Cassie Carsten shared a message about what it means to be a Kingdom Disciple.

The Mission of Being a Kingdom Disciple

The mission of being a kingdom disciple starts with having a right heart, followed by knowing where to place ourselves with respect to God and lastly, knowing the promises of God.

1. The Passion of the Kingdom Disciple

Having the right heart involves compassion and courage. Jesus had compassion on the people He was helping (Matt 9:35-38) – if we cannot feel others' pain, we become spiritually dead. Jesus saw a crisis with the helpless, and he had compassion. Following which He saw the vision of many people being saved and healed (Matt 9:36-37). Therefore, Jesus wants people with passion to serve because passion is created in the tension between the crisis and the vision.

Besides having a heart of passion, we also need a heart of courage – because God's love can never be put into practice without cost! Jesus said: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves" (Matt 10:16), telling us that every Kingdom Disciple is persecuted. Persecution goes beyond the violent persecutions – it can also be in the form of our emotional persecutions as we are seeking to be a disciple. This includes our work, our environment, our emotions, feelings or time that prevents us from doing Good Works.

2. The Place of the Kingdom Disciple

Jesus teaches us that we should never be above Him (Matt 10:24-25). Jesus himself, who was in His very nature God, emptied himself as a servant obedient unto death (Phil 2:6-8). We, therefore, as His disciples, cannot be above our Master.

This includes doing things Jesus would not have done. And pride is at the centre of it – leading us to do things out of selfish intentions. Thus, it is important to break our pride, in order to be a Kingdom

Disciple. To be below the Master, we also need to overcome our fear of Man because Matthew 10:28 teaches us not to fear the man who can kill our body but fear the Lord who can destroy our soul. If we can fear the world persecutions, how much more should we fear the Lord?

Believers cannot be indistinguishable from non-believers. Total self-surrender is needed. Self-denial for a higher cause. So that we might preach the transformational full message of the Gospel to others. The key to transformation is Jesus' absolute invasion. Rather than offering to get people into heaven with limited results in this life, Jesus' offer concerns itself primarily with getting heaven into people and transforming culture.

Jesus came to invade the lives of broken people and through them, transform a broken world.

You are the body of Christ: that is to say, in you and through you the work of the Incarnation must move forward. You are meant to incarnate in your lives the theme of your adoration – you are to be taken, consecrated, broken and distributed, that you may be the means of grace and the vehicles of Eternal Charity (Augustine).

3. God's Promises to Kingdom Disciples

To do the good works for His Kingdom and to be a Kingdom Disciple is no easy task and God did not promise that there would be no persecutions. But in Matthew 10, Jesus did promise that we would be Christ-like (v24, 25) and that as representatives of God, we will be accompanied by the Father, Son (v40), and Holy Spirit (v12). Our reward would be great; that we would be acknowledged before the Father (v32) and receive the righteous man's reward (v41).

God has empowered us and given us authority to do this (v1), even as He promises that He takes care of us as we are valuable to Him (v31). We are in this together with Him!

Conclusion

To be a kingdom disciple, we have to focus on having the right heart. When we have the right heart, the heart of God that beats with overwhelming compassion for the lost, we will know our place and find both strength and comfort from God to face the persecutions in our life and continue doing the works that God has set for us to do as Kingdom Disciples.

QUESTIONS

1. When did you last cry for something else outside yourself?

2. How are you being persecuted as a Kingdom Disciple? How might you overcome this persecution?

3. Before hearing Cassie's message, how would you have answered the question, "What is your main goal in life?" Is there any change in your answer after the message? What simple steps can you take to move you towards your goal?