

Pentecost 5C 2010
Luke 9:51-62
Sermon for Advent LC
June 27th, 2010

Discipleship Week 1 “Trusting”

Dear sisters and brothers, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are going to do something over the next five weeks that I have never done before. We are going to try to work through a Themed series of preaching that will focus on the idea of Discipleship- that big word that I think we maybe overuse in our churches and rarely fully understand. So...in an effort to gain a better understanding of what discipleship is I thought it would be fun to spend some time on it- don't fret if you miss a week- how dare you - you won't be lost- each message will stand on their own. But to get this thing started I'd like to figure out what you think of when you hear the word discipleship. So...what is it to you? Great answers- so we have a basic understanding - the hard part then is living it out eh? I define discipleship in similar ways to how you have- I see it as everything we do after we say I believe in Christ- our entire life should be discipleship which is rooted in the gift of Christ for us and the love that Christ gives us. The gift becomes the call. So today we start this journey- we join Christ in the Gospel and turn our own face to Jerusalem. Today, we will unpack discipleship as trusting. In the coming weeks we will explore discipleship as Going, Loving, Learning, and Living- I am excited about it- I hope it will help us all gain a little ground in our life with Christ and our life of service. So here we go!

Trust- trusting is the theme for today and the theme really presents itself in our Gospel from Luke. This week, in the middle of the night I had a run in with trust. Rather, my daughter did- since she is on her way to spend a week with her grandparents I figured I could quickly talk about her. She woke up screaming at about 230 AM and I quickly staggered into her room- when I got there all she could say was help- I said what do you want..she said I'm stuck- I want to lay on my side and I can't move- the sheet had completely been wrapped around her several times in her acrobatic sleep and literally she could not move- I had to not laugh as I looked at her I said Paytie, I need you to just lay still- her attempt was to move as hard as she could to untangle but all that did was make it worse- she said no, I want to move- after a few back and forth's I convinced her to trust me- she lay still, I unwrapped her, and all was well. Now, that's not a huge life or death situation by any means but at the same time for her it was pretty critical and it took all she had to listen to me and trust that I would help her- and eventually she calmed down and gave into that trust. The sheets became untangled and I could go back to bed. Trust- giving up control sometimes to someone else so that they can truly lead us where we need to go. Trust- how are you at it?

In our Gospel for today Jesus invites those who hear him as he makes his way to Jerusalem where his fate awaits to consider what it means to truly follow him as Lord. He uses harsh language really and though it is tempting to talk our way around it- the words Jesus uses are truly what the expectation is that Christ has for those who want to follow him. He runs into people who want to follow him, and he invites them to but their response is conditional- sure I will follow you Jesus they say, only after I do this...let me bury my father, let me say goodbye to my friends- and Jesus, knowing how short his time left is says no- if you want to follow me then do it- not when you have all your ducks in a row, not when everything is done to your liking- follow me now- today, in this way. Trust me! And it will be okay. Live for today- in me. But Lord, we can almost hear them saying- I got things to do- and then we can almost hear Jesus saying, yes, so do I and I need you now. You see dear friends, Christ in this harsh language is letting us know the urgency of following him- he has work to do- not just on his way to Jerusalem but today as well, and he needs us to be willing to fully trust him- to live for today- to not look back but only to look forward and trust him to lead us. The gift of Christ's love for you is a calling for you to follow him- and in following

him as a disciple, you must trust him to take you where you don't think you can go- and that invitation is now. Christ invites you dear friends to follow- to be a disciple, to live out your discipleship- and to trust him in a way that gives up control of your life so that that it begins and ends with him and he can lead you and you follow. Trust, how you doing at it?

It's hard isn't it- to really trust God fully? I mean we talk a big talk about the importance of living for Christ first- but so often the temptation and the reality is that the call is too great. How can we live first for Christ- we have other things, we have our lives, our family, our jobs, our bills, our reality- Christ can't possibly mean that stuff does not matter can he? I don't think so- but I do know that the God who comes to you in love expects from us a faithful and sacrificial response with our life. Yes, expects, yes demands that we trust him with all that we have and that our priorities start with him- you heard him- let the dead bury their own, you don't have time to say goodbye to your friends- what do you need to let go of, what do you need to put Christ before, what blankets have you wrapped all up and you keep trying to free yourself only to make it worse? Christ comes dear friends, Christ calls dear friends you to trust, to give him yourself, to give him control, to let him lead you and guide you. Do you hear him, he is calling- trust me he says, for I will not disappoint.

God loves you and so do I. Amen.