

Summary

Rick explores what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus, challenging common misconceptions about discipleship. He emphasizes that discipleship is not merely about behavior modification or avoiding hell, but about surrendering our personal filters and agendas to follow Jesus completely. He identifies four major filters through which people view discipleship: upbringing, theology, politics, and personality. These filters can hinder true discipleship when they become more important than Jesus' teachings. The message calls believers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and filter their beliefs through Jesus' teachings rather than filtering Jesus' teachings through their own beliefs.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to discuss what it means to be Your disciples, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our preconceived notions and personal agendas so that we can truly hear from You. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation and reveal areas where we need to surrender more fully to Jesus. May we be willing to examine the filters through which we view our faith and be open to Your correction and guidance. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one tradition or belief from your childhood that you still hold onto today, whether it's related to faith, family, or just life in general?

Key Verses

1. Luke 9:18-27
2. Luke 9:23
3. Luke 9:24-25

Questions

1. How do you personally define discipleship, and how has that definition changed over time?
2. When Jesus asked 'Who do you say I am?', Peter answered differently than the crowds. What influences help you form your own understanding of who Jesus is?
3. Which of the four filters (upbringing, theology, politics, personality) do you struggle with most when it comes to your faith? Why?
4. Rick mentioned that 'the term Christian doesn't need an adjective.' What adjectives have you been tempted to put in front of 'Christian' and why?
5. How can we tell the difference between filtering our beliefs through Jesus' teachings versus filtering Jesus' teachings through our beliefs?

6. What does it practically look like to 'deny yourself and take up your cross daily' in your current life circumstances?
7. Rick shared that less than 10% of Christians are actively discipling others. What barriers prevent you from discipling someone else?
8. How can we maintain our convictions while still being willing to surrender our personal agendas to Jesus?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific filter (upbringing, theology, politics, or personality) that may be influencing how you view your faith. Spend time in prayer asking God to show you if there are any beliefs or preferences you need to surrender to align more closely with Jesus' teachings. Consider having an honest conversation with a trusted friend or mentor about this area of your life.

Key Takeaways

1. True discipleship requires surrendering our personal filters and agendas to follow Jesus completely
2. The four major filters that can hinder discipleship are upbringing, theology, politics, and personality
3. Disciples filter their beliefs through Jesus' teachings, not Jesus' teachings through their beliefs
4. The term 'Christian' doesn't need an adjective - it means one who follows and imitates Jesus
5. Discipleship is about adopting Jesus' heart and behavior, then showing others how to do the same

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us to be Your disciples. We confess that we often try to make You fit into our agendas rather than surrendering our agendas to You. Help us to identify and lay down the filters that prevent us from following You wholeheartedly. Give us the courage to deny ourselves daily and take up our cross. May we find our identity solely in being Your followers, not in any other label or category. Transform our hearts to be more like Yours, and use us to disciple others in the same way. We surrender our lives to You afresh today. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.