



Walk as Jesus Walked, part TWO, April 25-28 Ray VanderLaan, Volume 7

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV) ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

IRON SHARPENING IRON STUFF:

- Reminder of the original purposes of LC – more now than ever
- Herb sensing...
 1. “It is more important than ever to walk in step with the Spirit moment by moment.”
 2. God is working, enemy is retaliating, being alert and uncompromising in relational commands essential
 3. Prioritize reaching your “one(s)” as salt & light AND praying and reaching to the lost, lonely and leaders.

INTRODUCTION

Ray Vander Laan. *Walk as Jesus Walked* Discovery Guide Book 7, Kindle (p. 48). HarperChristian Resources

This session focuses on Paul’s early teaching ministry. We will discover

- † his passion to share his faith with everyone — Jews and Gentiles.
- † his intense devotion to God as he slowly discovers God’s will for his life and work.
- † his Jewish way of sharing the message of Jesus that would change the world.
- † the challenge to imitate Paul’s willingness to place God’s plans and desires ahead of his own even though he wanted with all his heart to take the message of Jesus to Rome.

Galatians 1:11–24 (ESV)

Think About It...

Paul, even though an all-star scholar before his conversion, spends 3 years in Arabia in obscurity and another 6 years as an apprentice, slowly being recognized as a teacher and leader before God appoints he and Barnabas to be missionaries to the Gentiles. It is in that work that he gradually gains apostle status alongside Peter.

- A. D. 36 - Conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9).
- A. D. 36-39 - Damascus, visits Jerusalem 3 years after conversion, then to Tarsus. (Acts 9:23-26; Gal. 1:18)
- A. D. 40-43 - preaches in Syria and Cilicia (Gal. 1:21), enduring sufferings (2 Cor. 11).
- brought from Tarsus to Antioch by Barnabas, stays a year before the famine (Acts 11:26).
- A. D. 44 - second visit to Jerusalem, with the collection (Acts 1:11-30).
- A. D. 45 - returns to Antioch (Acts 12:2-5), is there commissioned by Holy Spirit with Barnabas.

APPLICATION:

- When we truly believe that God wants us to do something and are committed to the calling, how do we tend to respond? How much effort are we willing to put into preparing for what God would have us do? How long are we willing to wait for God’s timing?
- Paul’s passion for reaching lost people appears to develop over time. Is that happening in us?

VIDEO Content

➔ Paul meets Jesus

- After walking by the Roman pagan temple is confronted by Jesus

Acts 22:3–10 (ESV)

- becomes student of new rabbi, Barnabas, teaches him to interpret the Hebrew Bible as taught by Jesus

➔ Paul and Barnabas leave on first missionary tour, Acts 13:4-12

- Cyprus - Barnabas' hometown
 - Sergius Paulus (secretary of state converted)
 - Elymas the magician confronted and blinded
 - intended trip diverted to Antioch of Pisidia, about a **100 mile walk**

➔ Antioch of Pisidia — a miniature Rome. (a different city than Antioch of Syria, Acts 11-13:1)

- Paul is reminded of his conversion as he walks by Roman pagan temple

➔ Paul goes out to teach the kingdom of God, Acts 13:13-50

- starts in the Jewish synagogue – the message is that God invites Jews and Gentiles to Jesus
- Gentiles and some Jews rejoice, but some Jewish leaders resent, so kick Paul and Barnabas out of town
- we have assumptions of God's plans that we must SLO with for God to truly guide.

➔ Paul and Barnabas head to Iconium against their will, **75 mile walk** , Acts 13:51-52

- God has something that He wants to show Paul, but Paul has to trust when it doesn't make sense.

APPLICATION:

- we must learn to be content with the unknowns of God in our lives. **HOW?**
- we must expect opposition, even from unexpected sources. **HOW?**
- we must trust God when it appears disobedient people are winning. **HOW?**

Takeaways...



New Song
Community Church