



*Walk as Jesus Walked, part **THREE***, May 2-5 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. How much time with God is “enough?” To ponder... we will return to this.
 3. Following Christ is “becoming like The Rabbi” not just doing stuff like He did.

“An Unlikely Disciple” Ray Vander Laan. *Walk as Jesus Walked Discovery Guide Book 7*, Kindle (p. 78).

Think About It...

Throughout history God-followers have experienced God using them in ways they did not expect.

- Think for a moment about the people – from the Scriptures, from more recent history, from your life – whom God has used to accomplish amazing things for him. **Write down some names:**

- Circle the ones who, at least at first, seemed to be unfit for the task, then identify why.
- What does this suggest about the kinds of people God delights to use in mighty ways?

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (ESV)

1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV) ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

This session focuses on unlikely disciples and unlikely ways God calls, prepares and uses disciples

It’s one thing to recognize that God chooses unlikely people; it’s another to identify how. Unlikely disciples don’t become great champions of the faith overnight. They must be **trained** to passionately and faithfully obey God... to **learn to walk as Jesus walked...** to **become disciples who make disciples** (Matt. 28:19 – 20).

VIDEO Content

➔ Why Galatia?

During his three teaching tours, Paul walked through Galatia four times – probably logging more than a thousand miles! It must have seemed strange to Paul that God kept bringing him back to this small town.

- ➔ Teachings from a sheep pen
- ➔ Lystra – a small town that didn’t seem to merit this kind of attention
- ➔ The myth: Zeus and Hermes visiting Baucis and Philemon
Acts 14:8–18 (ESV)
- ➔ The miracle
 - Stoning – capital punishment, and yet...
Acts 14:19–23 (ESV)

➔ The *mamzer* – Timothy

An outsider to the Jewish community through no fault of his own, Timothy stands as an example of how God often unfolds plans beyond all expectations through unlikely disciples who are fully committed to him and seek to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6).

Can we identify with Timothy? Sure! We easily underestimate God's ability to use us, but there's great news! Just as God had great plans for Timothy, *he has great plans for each of us. As we are faithful in walking as Jesus walked, God WILL use us in ways we do not expect or deserve.*

RAY VANDER LAAN THOUGHTS:

1. In his early missionary work Paul started many churches, but later changed his activities to start fewer churches and develop more disciples. In doing so, he was doing the things that Jesus did.
2. Does it surprise you to see how far Paul came just to find one kid and what that meant to Timothy?
3. Fellow Timothys – we're all outside, sinners. God has come a long, long way looking for nobodies. You don't have to bring anything but a fire in your soul, a passion in your heart and a willingness to give every ounce you've got to be like your Rabbi.

Look for mamzers! They are out there. And there was never a better disciple for Paul than the kid he found on the street. Timothy had ONLY one thing: he knew the text of scripture – and would walk out to become like Paul who was like Jesus.

1 John 2:6 (ESV) whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

APPLICATION:

- When you consider how much time Paul spent walking through this part of his world, what do you learn about his commitment to obey Jesus and walk as Jesus walked?
- Do you think Paul ever struggled with the “why behind the what” – that God required so much time in the “wilderness” of Galatia... especially why God kept directing to the small town of Lystra?
- The importance of “this is that” and the use of parables, metaphors, illustrations, stories, etc.
- What does Paul's resurrection teach about life, death and God being in charge?
- Does the account of Timothy being an outsider impact you? If so, why?
- Clarification on “nobodies:” some of Jesus followers were outsiders like Timothy, the woman at the well, Mary Magdalene and the Gadarene demoniac. Others, such as Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, Lydia and Sergius Paulus had proven skills, education, wealth, position, etc. before coming to Christ. What are the implications for each?

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (ESV)

Takeaways...



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