

Courtship is Discipleship

John 21:17

He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me with a deep, instinctive, personal affection for Me, as for a close friend? Peter was grieved (was saddened and hurt) that He should ask him the third time, do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You that I have a deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep

The vision of first fruits here at the POW is really about discipleship. Jesus calls into focus Peters true motives for why he goes to church and why he serves the lord. He asks Peter to examine his love for Him. That the only way he could reproduce himself is courtship begets discipleship.

Can I be honest with you tonight? Don Rogers love fails both you and God when it comes to be an effective pastor and soul winner. I must seek the superior of love of Jesus every day in order to have the right motivation to disciple others. Can I be transparent with you? It's been a while since I prayed for the church membership list. I don't weep and travail for this church membership like I would do my own children or wife. I don't have the right burden to go and teach a home bible study like I need to.

But when I go back and ask God to give this love Jesus is offering Peter, then I get my motivation back for discipleship. Listen to what David says in **Psalm 51:12-17 AMPC** concerning getting his heart and motives right for being a disciple maker.

[12] Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. [13] Then will I teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted and return to You. [14] Deliver me from blood guiltiness and death, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness (Your rightness and Your justice). [15] O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. [16] For You delight not in sacrifice, or else would I give it; You find no pleasure in burnt offering. [17] My sacrifice [the sacrifice acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart [broken down with sorrow for sin and humbly and thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise. This is courtship producing discipleship. This is the real vision of first fruits harvest.

There is a real cry for the power and love of God to change David's motivation. This kind of power and love comes from the spirit of prayer. This is not a five minute prayer. It's a deep longing to see fruit manifested from **HIS** Love operating through me.

Courtship means receiving passion and power from on high through seeking and dwelling with Jesus.

- A. Receiving inspiration and will power to love the unlovable.
- B. Receiving abiding strength and intimate love that transforms my attitude from being double minded. So I can be a soul winner. So I can care about new people coming into the church.
- C. Courtship means receiving urgency to be a disciple from the reality and finality of Hell. We cannot allow life's problems and the anxieties of this age numb us in apathy of the reality that eternity awaits all of us. Hell is a real

place. And this love Jesus is asking Peter about drives Peter's passion to warn and admonishes people Hell is a real place people really do go. And we all have no promise of tomorrow's breath.

- D. Courtship is a term for abiding lifestyle prayer with Jesus Christ that causes you and I to receive an increase of more purity.....more passionand more power for relationship evangelism. The people we are reaching and trying to disciple have issues and strongholds far beyond our abilities to help them. Jesus said increase Peter seeking My superior love then you will be able to feed My sheep.
1. God didn't call us to sit, sing, soak but called us to discipleship through this superior dependent love of Jesus Christ.
 2. Without courtship by default we succumb to worldly seductions and self-indulging and self-absorbed lifestyles. Because of this kind of superior love that comes from Calvary, Paul said it constrains my time priorities. It dictates how I should spend my resources and the priority of how I am faithful financially. (Talk about God training you through His love to make you faithful over little to make you ruler over much through courtship love affair.

So this courtship that produces discipleship is manifested in four ways.

1. Discipleship consist of four things Acts 1:8; witnessing become friendly first to win people to yourself
2. Converting the unchurched through HBS and teaching, with urgent passion of the reality of hell
3. Mentoring the new believer
4. Building up the saints in Christian character
5. being faithful to a ministry

Read Luke 5:1-3

1. Jesus asked Peter for his boat to disciple others. He is asking us for our talent, our time, our gifts, and our resources to disciple others because of courtship. Will you put discipleship first next Wed.?
2. Jesus used Peter's ship for a pulpit to teach him and others the first level of wealth.
3. Read vs. 4-then He tells Peter to launch out into the deep. Forget the many times you saw no results and was hurt, to win and mentor other people. Forget the fact you have not won a soul since you been at POW and your personal life seems jacked up. Or you feel like a hypocrite. Or you do not have a prayer life.
4. Give Me your resources and possessions and I will take you into the deep. (All to thee my Blessed Savior I surrender all). Will you give the Lord your ship for discipleship?
5. The end game is knowing Him and reaching them.
6. We want you to invest all of yourself to know Him because He in turn will empower us to reach and disciple them.
7. Our fasting and prayer is for these two reasons. To know Him and to reach them.

8. We exist for the sole reason of building each other up in KCC Christ centered living and reaching people who do not know this Jesus. This is what our classes are all about on Wed. nights. If you are like me you have to ask God to give you a burden for lost people and to mentor others by the spirit of prayer tonight.
9. The devil doesn't want this church to turn the corner and make discipleship a lifestyle. It's next to impossible with courtship.
10. Read **John 15:1-13**

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