**FOCUS Bible Study - March 09**

[**VIEW RECORDING - 101 mins (No highlights)**](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB)

[@0:01](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1.26) - **Laurie Nelson**

Morning, Rick, this meeting is being recorded.

[@0:04](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=4.14) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

We're going to play with the recording in here and try to pause it before we get started here.

[@0:10](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=10.32) - **Laurie Nelson**

Okay.

[@0:11](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=11.8) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

I had issue with that last week because, you remember, were you on Laurie last time?

[@0:18](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=18.7) - **Laurie Nelson**

Yeah, was.

[@0:20](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=20.34) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Listen with it. But luckily, this phantom thing that I don't know you see in the screen says Rick Stevenson and I'm recording this call for note taking purposes.

That allows us to get a summary and transcript and it apparently records at the same time.

[@0:34](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=34.54) - **Laurie Nelson**

So I messed up the zoom recording, but because phantom recorded it, at least I had a backup. Oh, perfect.

[@0:42](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=42.04) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Welcome this morning, everybody. glad you're here. So Mike, it's been a while. nice to see you back. Yeah. How did the volleyball season go?

[@0:54](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=54.9) - **Mike**

Like, like you said, I've been pretty busy. The highlight of my. He's in so far was I was hitting ahead with the volleyball a few weeks ago, some sort of working my way through minor concussion.

[@1:09](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=69.58) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Oh my.

[@1:10](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=70.66) - **Mike**

Yeah, been a little bit of a little bit of a challenge, but I'm doing pretty well.

[@1:15](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=75.02) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Well, we're glad you're recovering and we're glad you hear this morning and we pray for an even speedier recovery.

Ashley, nice to meet you. Glad you're here today. Where are you calling in from if you we don't mind asking?

Well, I think you're I'm mute. Maybe maybe now give it a try now.

[@1:37](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=97.8) - **Ashlee**

I think I figured it out. There we go.

[@1:41](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=101.26) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Where are you calling?

[@1:42](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=102.14) - **Ashlee**

I'm in Red Granite.

[@1:43](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=103.72) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Oh, Red Granite, where is that?

[@1:49](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=109.62) - **Ashlee**

Middle of nowhere?

[@1:51](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=111.76) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

What state is that in?

[@1:53](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=113.62) - **Ashlee**

Wisconsin.

[@1:54](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=114.64) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Wisconsin. Okay, I've just never heard of it. It's interesting. yeah and there's my friend Nate right is that me nice to see you Nate hi hi Rick hey how you doing Rachel good and we got John on from Kenya John has been a while it's glad that you are able to join us again perfect thank you very much you are glad it is sunny and he's a warm day doesn't not hope a day a warm day there huh okay well we're glad that you you were able to jump we got just a few minutes I think I see 857 here so we'll give it just a couple more minutes what people are jumping on and trying to get the timer to work for us this week too so we'll see if we have success with that so that people know when we're kind of wrapping up getting towards our hour in case they have to jump off I see we have Anthony signing on Anthony welcome

We're glad you're here today. I think you're on mute.

[@3:05](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=185.68) - **Anthony Signa**

Can you hear me?

[@3:06](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=186.72) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah. Now we hear you.

[@3:08](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=188.04) - **Anthony Signa**

Perfect. Good morning.

[@3:09](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=189.22) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you for having me. Where are you calling in for, Anthony?

[@3:11](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=191.72) - **Anthony Signa**

you mind me asking? Yeah. Sub rivers of Chicago. So first time here.

[@3:16](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=196.34) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So I'm really excited to join everyone. Excellent. Where in Chicago? grew up in Rockford, lived in Libertyville or born in Libertyville.

Lived in Lyle.

[@3:25](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=205.32) - **Anthony Signa**

Are you familiar with the O'Hare area? I'm specifically from like Harvard Heights.

[@3:30](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=210.68) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Oh, okay. Sure. Yeah. You grew up there or are you just living there now?

[@3:35](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=215.72) - **Anthony Signa**

Yeah. That's pretty much where I've been my whole life. yeah. Just pretty much, you know, Chicago neighborhood.

[@3:42](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=222.74) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay. Cool. We're glad you joined us.

[@3:45](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=225.12) - **Anthony Signa**

Yeah.

[@3:45](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=225.52) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. You can't see, but my wife is... Yep. She's waving her hand there. She's behind us here. She just doesn't usually get on camera.

Her name's Julie. Yeah. Yeah. They're only about two hours for months.

[@4:01](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=241.68) - **Anthony Signa**

We live in Wisconsin. Yeah, we're in Johnson.

[@4:04](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=244.4) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

we got here.

[@4:06](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=246.74) - **Anthony Signa**

You guys been there all. Have you guys been there all your life?

[@4:10](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=250.24) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

No, for about the past 20 years when we moved here.

[@4:14](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=254.0) - **Anthony Signa**

Okay.

[@4:14](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=254.76) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

I grew up, like I said, in Rockford, she grew up in McQuannago.

[@4:19](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=259.58) - **Anthony Signa**

Okay.

[@4:22](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=262.6) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

welcome this morning.

[@4:25](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=265.52) - **Alicia**

Glad you're here. Morning.

[@4:27](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=267.52) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

How are you doing this morning?

[@4:29](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=269.42) - **Alicia**

Good. How are you?

[@4:33](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=273.86) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Good. It's nice and bright behind you.

[@4:35](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=275.72) - **Alicia**

You're sitting right right by a window.

[@4:37](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=277.18) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah.

[@4:37](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=277.92) - **Alicia**

I'm sitting in the sun. Trying to get as much as I can.

[@4:42](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=282.62) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes. Get up, soak up that vitamin D.

[@4:45](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=285.0) - **Alicia**

Yeah, that's right.

[@4:48](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=288.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

All right. It is nine o'clock as I see it. And I'm going to start the timer. And hopefully, let me know if you guys see that.

seeing it. So maybe I did something wrong here. I'm not going to worry too much about that. going to let Brian in.

There's Brian. Now we got Victoria coming in and we've got Elizabeth coming in. Wow, this is awesome. Welcome everybody.

We're glad that you joined us this morning. We're going to go ahead and get started right away because I got a lot to cover today, okay?

And everybody's saying, well, isn't that usual? Let's open with a word of prayer, okay? Jesus, we thank you for this beautiful day.

We thank you for our friends who joined us, Lord. We pray that you leave our conversation that you'd inspire our hearts and our minds, that you would lead us into a deeper relationship with you, God.

We know, Lord, it's all about you. We want to honor you and lift you up in Jesus' name. Amen.

All right. Well, this morning, we're going to talk about a topic that I titled, the cost of discipleship, the cost of discipleship.

So when I say that phrase, does anything come to mind, any thoughts that it invokes within you, anybody want to share if they are impacted by that title, the cost of disciples, what might that mean to you?

You just come off and mute and speak up.

[@6:18](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=378.86) - **Elizabeth J**

That you have to give up something if you want to follow and, you know, the right footsteps or something.

[@6:25](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=385.28) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, that's a great response, Elizabeth. I like that. I agree. You have to give up something if you're going follow or something.

Anybody else? Yeah, that was my wife or those of you who just joined Cancer here. Yeah, that's Julie. She said the eternal rewards can be amazing.

Anybody else? What is it listening to you when you hear that phrase?

[@6:46](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=406.0) - **Victoria**

I think of how the disciples gave up their careers. Oh, yeah.

[@6:52](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=412.26) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Follow. They gave up everything, didn't they, Victoria? Not just careers, family, maybe even their friendships. Yeah. And this is my cat, sorry about that.

Yeah, okay, she never has done that before. Sorry, apologize. Yeah, so the great response, Victoria, I appreciate that, it's about giving up something maybe we think in terms of that, you know, we walk away from certain things.

But did you know, according to the Webster's dictionary, the word disciple is defined as one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another?

So the two things I pick up in that definition is one, you have to accept first the doctrine that you're going to be then spreading, right?

So it's a two part thing, discipleship can be a two part thing. You're accepting the teachings, the doctrines of the one that you're gonna follow, but not you accept it so much so that you're willing to turn around and share what you've accepted.

That makes sense? At least from a definition perspective. But did you also know that we get the word discipline from the word?

So, the word discipline defined is control gained by enforcing ingredients or order. It also can be defined as orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior or training that corrects moles or perfects the mental faculties or more character or it can be a system of rules governing conduct or activity.

So, when you think in terms of discipline and you think in that definition of enforcing obedience, that obedience can either be enforced upon yourself or upon others, right?

And I think as Christians, sometimes we get that mixed up. We try to enforce on other people what we believe.

And I think it first has to start with ourselves. We have to be able to enforce what we believe on our own lives.

You know, are we living it before we can then share it orally the whole that somebody would want to apply.

it to their own lives. And then it's also training that corrects or molds and perfects the mental faculties when we're character, that means like, how do we correct ourselves?

If we're first to accept the doctrine that we believe Jesus shared with us and we want to share that, and we want to enforce that first upon ourselves, how do we go about correcting ourselves when we go wrong?

Because we all, we all go wrong at times, we all make mistakes. So how do we enforce that upon ourselves to be correcting ourselves, right?

So we're going to get into only a few scriptures today, but they're long. Okay, so I'm warning you. We're going to talk about 20 a few scriptures, but they're long.

So let's go to Matthew chapter eight. Matthew chapter eight, welcome to those who just joined who appreciate you're joining us this morning.

We're going to talk about the cost of discipleship today, starting with Matthew chapter eight. And we're going to read 18 through 34.

So we're going to break it into three sections. those of you who new, we'd like to share the reading, we take

[@10:00](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=600.0) - **Laurie Nelson**

turns reading if you're okay with that I'll just go around on my screen and call on people and if you're okay reading just read and if you're not just say pass and we'll just move on no big deal we want everybody to feel comfortable okay so let's take the first section of Matthew 8 18 through 22 Laurie if you wouldn't mind now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him he gave commandment to depart onto the other side and a certain scribe came and said unto him master I will follow thee with a soever thou goest and Jesus said unto him the foxes have holes and the birds of the air had nests but the son of man hath no where to lay his head and another of his disciples said unto him Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father but Jesus said unto him follow me and let the dead bury the dead and mike would you continue verse 23 through 27 please and we got into the boat his disciples followed him

[@11:00](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=660.0) - **Mike**

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves, but he was asleep.

And they want and woke him, saying, save us, Lord, we are perishing. And he said to them, why are you afraid, oh, you of little faith?

Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, what sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey him?

[@11:30](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=690.56) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you, Michael. have two mics on today, so I apologize that. The first mike that read, call you Mike one and Mike two, would you mind finishing up with verses 28 34, please?

[@11:41](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=701.82) - **Mike**

And when he came to the other side to the country of the God at Venice, two demon possessed men met him coming out of the tomb, so fierce that no one could pass their way.

And behold, they cried out, what have you to do with us? So son of God have you come here to torment us before the time Now I heard of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them And the demons begged him saying if you've cast us out send us away into the herd of pigs And he said to them go So they came out and went into the pigs and behold the whole herd rushed down the stink bank into the sea and drowned in the waters But and going into the city they told everything Especially what had happened to the demon possessed men and Behold all the city came out to meet Jesus and when they saw him they begged him to leave their region Okay, thank you for those who just joined were in Matthew 8 and we read verses 18 through 34 Matthew 8 18 through 34, so you might read that section of Scripture and you go well What does this got to do about the song?

[@13:00](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=780.0) - **Ashlee**

discipleship, since we're talking about the cost of discipleship.

[@13:03](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=783.42) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So to be able to answer that question, we are going to break it down verse by verse. And if you don't mind, now that we're into the actual lesson, if you're not on mute already, would you go on mute until I either call on you or you have something to say.

And there's a little icon that you can raise your hand to show that you have a question. And I do look at the screen.

So I will notice if you have to something to say, and I'll call on you, okay? So but that helps everybody to be able to hear.

Thank you, everyone. Alright, so let's break it down. Matthew 8 starting with verse 18. Let's just read that verse again.

It says, now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart to the other side. Alright, what stuck out to me about that verse is it says, multitude, and Jesus saw that multitude, but he did something that I would think would be the opposite.

Because Jesus was like, he was preaching to multitudes, he was like, in Interesting getting out the message to everybody, right?

But he does something that's the opposite here He sees this multitude and he walks away from it Right, he he commands in other words to depart from the multitude.

He's trying to get alone with some Some of the disciples. So what that shows us is Jesus is not interested perhaps in the crowds themselves He's not just interested in us falling in for the sake of saying what can we receive from him?

Because if you look at the scriptures before that in Matthew 8 verses 1 through 17 what you'll see is he had just been performing miracles.

He delivered performed deliverances in verses 16 and 17 Prior to that he healed the leper he cleansed the sin from the life of the leper in verses 1 through 4 He pointed to the faith of the centurion You probably know that story and he compared those who should have known him to the faith that the centurion had in verses 5 through 13 And we see the purpose of God of what he doesn't know lives

that we would minister to others in verses 14 and 15. So here, he's been ministering to the crowds, but now he says, depart, let's get away.

So we gather that discipleship is a solo endeavor between you and God. You perhaps have a few others around you or you're drawn because of the crowd, but what it comes down to is discipleship is really between you and God.

Does that make sense to everybody? Okay, see a few nods. That's great. Okay, so verse 19, and a certain scribe came and said to him, Master, I will follow thee wherever thou goest.

Now, certain scribe, I mean, we all have names, right? people have names back then, so why is it important that the writer chose the words certain scribe?

He's not trying to specifically identify this person, right? That's why the word certain. But he does give a descriptor.

He says this person is a scribe. And anybody know what a scribe is or was just come off and you can speak up or yeah, go ahead, Anthony Yeah, a scribe is typically or was typically someone that would take notes and kind of gather information for somebody else during it like a Task or like a group and kind of collect information Yeah, that's a very good answer And is particularly when we read about a scribe in the Bible, what kind of information were they gathering or what were they writing down?

[@16:33](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=993.34) - **ajoedyfoundation@gmail.com**

John I Think and the in the Bible point and it might mean The those who had known the law the teachers of the law a long time ago There were group of the scholars so these scholars are men in the those who knew the scriptural laws The laws a long time in the in the the religion line, so they were called the scribes.

[@16:58](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1018.12) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, very good. Thank you Yeah, and so when I looked it up, both you and Anthony are correct. It said it was a scribe was a man learned in the Mosaic Law.

And in the Sacred Writings, he was an interpreter or teacher. Scribes examined the more difficult and subtle questions of the law.

They added to the Mosaic Law decisions of various kinds through the clarity clarifying its meaning and scope and did this to the detriment of religion.

want you to catch that. They did this to the detriment of religion. And since the advice of men skilled in the law was needed in the examination of causes and the solution of the difficult questions, they were enrolled in the Sanhedrin, which was a legislative body.

So what that tells us is they gathered that information. They were schooled in the Torah, in the Mosaic Law, and people would have questions about this law.

How do we apply this? And they would dive into those questions and they would gather information. And they would do this to help people's relationship with God grow.

That's why it's the detriment of religion. What does that mean? Religion is a set body or organizational rules and impedance of those rules.

And so it tries to conform you into the organization's shape rather than into the doctrinal shape. Does that make sense to people?

And so scribes are more about trying to get into that right relationship with God and not so much about an organization mindset.

And I hope that's where all of us should be, right, is really developing that relationship with God more than what man's organizations would say.

We might come from different organizations, know, have gone through different organizations in our past. That's fine. Nothing wrong with that as you've been growing and learning, but hopefully you're not stopping there.

Hopefully you're continuing to learn and dive into the Word of God and build that relationship for yourself. That's what new with God in developing that relationship to it.

deeper level. But in this case, discipleship can only happen when our lips and our hearts align. What do I mean by that?

Because we have to look at the response of Jesus in the next verse, verse 20, Jesus says unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man have not where to lay his head.

Why do you think here this scribe in the previous verse says, Hey, I want to follow you, you know, wherever you go.

But this is Jesus's response. And he thought as to why he might respond this way. Lori, looks like you want.

[@19:46](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1186.08) - **Laurie Nelson**

Yeah, I think I think without saying it, he's trying to say that you know, there is a cost for following me.

It's not like following the law or like religious Jen, it's like there's a certain cost to following me that you need to respect and understand.

[@20:08](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1208.58) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, good point. Like one, you had your hand up next. Go ahead. Up you're on mute.

[@20:15](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1215.5) - **Mike**

Okay, there we go. So, the scribes were schooled in the religious law, but they were also the basic lawyers of the day because religious law and civil law kind of were the same thing.

So, if there was a property dispute or something like that, which is another way of saying the scribes led a very good life.

They were very well off. They probably had a good place to sleep every night. I think Jesus was basically, know, mean, reading between the lines a little, you've got a lot of not giving gifts and talents.

And if you're going to follow me, I'm going to want to use them, but you're not, don't, don't expect to have the lifestyle and the comfort that you are used to.

mean, scribes were, scribes were not at the bottom of the economic ladder. They weren't all the way up there with the Pharisees, but they were pretty close.

And Jesus was letting him know that that's not guaranteed to you.

[@21:26](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1286.54) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, that's a good point. There's going to be a little discomfort if you're going come follow me, essentially. Anthony, go ahead.

[@21:31](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1291.78) - **Anthony Signa**

You're next. Yeah. Um, kind of what I get out of this is that the relationship that we have with God is a continuous journey.

And you know, there's going to be moments where, you know, things may not make sense or things may not, you know, appear clear, but it's a relationship that continues to kind of build and grow on, you know, as we move through our lives.

And I think that at the end of the day, it's about having that foundation of trust and being able to kind of.

Move through your day and move through your life, you know, kind of accepting the uncertainty and the unknown and You know still being able to have that individual personal relationship with him.

[@22:10](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1330.18) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, yeah great great perspective and And for everybody else, you know, there's no right or wrong answers here These are just thoughts, know that hit us as we read the scripture, which is great to share So when I read that myself and Jesus compares the foxes and holes and birds of the air having nest What I get out of that is that we're not to straddle the line and what do I mean by that?

Well, you think in terms of foxes, are foxes? They can be notorious sly Crafty, right? there's symbolism here that maybe Jesus is also using very subtly So foxes are like sly or crafty.

Maybe those who are being influenced by the enemy and what leads me to that thought is because holes Right foxes and holes holes are dark places or layers hiding from change maybe Birds on your

other hand, are those who are used in more symbolism of spirituality, more like you think of the dove, right, as a spiritual symbol.

So bird is a spiritual symbol, and the nest is a place above, above the ground in the tree, reaching towards the heavens, if you will.

So here, Jesus is contrasting earthly to spiritual, and he's basically telling the guy, you can't straddle between both. You're going to have to make up your mind because as a son of man, that phrase is referring to humanity, right, men and women, humanity.

He's not referring to himself when he says a son of man, in this particular case. He's saying as humanity, there's no resting place on this earth, right?

Don't get settled in your residence here on earth, because you should be shooting for your heavenly home, right? So we have to decide, are we a fox or are we a bird?

do we want to end up? discipleship is about making up your mind. where you're headed. It's also about consistency in that approach.

You can't decide one day, well, I'm a bird and then live as a fox the next day. Makes sense?

And so it consistently following God means here's an example. You can't tithe once and expect the blessings of God to come from that simply because you did it once.

It's an ongoing lifestyle. need to, if you're going to tithe, be diligent about it, right? If you're going to live for God and share the word, then share the word.

Be diligent about it. So discipleship is about making up your mind and then being consistent with that. So verse 21, and another of his disciples said to him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Now, a disciple should be focused on life and what's ahead, right? But here this person is focused on something that's dead, right?

And he has a relationship with it. I get it. It's a it was a close relationship, but it's something that

has died and as a disciple, if something is died in your life, you should walk away from it, not keep going back to it.

Does that make sense to people? Okay, because discipleship is about life, it's about pursuing the life that God has given us.

And it's interesting that Scripture uses the phrase father here, right? Because a father is an intimate connection, but it's also one that you've learned from.

And so the disciples' previous father, if we all think in this terms, was Satan in our lives before we came to God, right?

Because Jesus even used that term when he was talking to the Pharisees, your father is a father of lies, right?

Because they weren't living for God. So when we aren't living for God, we are associated with the enemy, unfortunately, and we've learned from him the ways of our life.

And we need to break those relationships, we need to break that pattern in our life and start following after God.

Because if we constantly look back and go back to those things. The greater pull and temptation they'll have on us.

So we want to make that separation between that way we used to live and now focus strictly on God.

Next verse, verse 22, but Jesus said to them, follow me and let the dead bury their dead. So there's the exact response that Jesus is saying that, look, that's in the past.

There are dead, he's not talking physically, apparently. The physical dead can't bury the physical dead in possibility, right? So he's talking about spiritual deadness in the first word dead, right?

So he's saying those who aren't living for God, they're as though they're walking zombies, right? That's why I called my ministry zombie rescue mission because when you're not living for God, you are walking dead person.

You don't know it, you know? The zombie doesn't know he's a zombie. But he needs to be rescued from that.

He needs to be pulled out of that life and shown something better But you know, we can't physically do it for them We have to live as an example before them through our discipleship.

We set the example by how we live, okay, so I also want you to realize That verse 21 said another of his disciples So he was already a disciple Right, so Jesus is also reminding him don't turn back You're on the right path keep moving forward.

So again, this shows us discipleship is a constant every day day after day minute after minute decision We all get tempted.

We all have failures. We all Make mistakes, but Jesus is saying don't settle in your lifestyle that mistake It really is you made a mistake, but keep moving forward keep pursuing life to show us

A deeper relationship to this. Let's go to Luke. Keep your finger in Matthew, but let's go to Luke chapter 9 Luke chapter 9 We're gonna read verses 57 through 62 And Julie when you have it would you mind reading it verse chapter 9 verses 57 through 62 I will follow you wherever you go.

Jesus replied, foxes that holes and birds of the air have nets, but the son man has no place to live, hey He said to another man, follow me, but the man replied, Lord, let me go and bury my fathers Jesus said to him, let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God Still another said, I will follow you Lord, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family Jesus

Okay, this sounds a lot like what we read in Matthew already, right? So here we have two writers writing about the same events, different sequences, perhaps, and with a little more detail.

And there's nothing wrong with that because, like, when we, a couple of us witnessed the same event and we share our side of the story, we have slightly different details or takes from it, right?

That's all that's happening here. But what I want to see catch is that not only did he say, know, as this follower, you shouldn't be concerned about what is behind you, but you have a responsibility and a task ahead of you.

Not only are you to pursue life, but you're to help others pursue life because the instruction is go and preach, right, the gospel or the kingdom to others, right?

So not only is discipleship about that consistency and about that daily decision we make But it's a task that lies before us to share it with others, because many of us here that we're preaching, we think, oh, we got to stand up before a crowd and we got to do something like this Bible study, right to share that that's not what the word preach truly means.

That's one way of preaching, but another way of preaching. In fact, the most dynamic way of preaching is living it before somebody, right, just being a set example for them.

Okay, because by being a set example, people are going to have questions and they're going to come to you and start conversations or have questions that they're going to ask.

And Mike, number one, you got to hand her east, go ahead.

[@30:36](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1836.62) - **Mike**

The right mic, I guess. The thing you said about different people telling the same story from different perspectives. I know sometimes that is pointed to by people who want to be critical of the scriptures and say, they're not exactly agreeing with one another.

I'm baseball fan then. I read a story a few years ago when I think it was the 70th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's debut, the first black major league baseball player.

So there weren't a lot of people that were still alive to be interviewed, but they interviewed a couple of who saw that game in Brooklyn and it was early in the season, like we're about to start the baseball season now.

So, you know, weather is kind of crazy in April and one of them said, I remember that day very well.

It was kind of damp and chilly and another one said, I remember the day very well. It was kind of a warm early spring day.

know, weather is very subjective, I guess, but no one could argue. that they saw history being made that day, they saw something that the significance was well above and beyond whether they remembered the weather correctly, and that was, know, Bible isn't written to tell us about what the weather was like on a specific day when Jesus was preaching and, you know, did John remember it a little bit differently than Luke or something like that, it's the story that they're trying to tell and the points that are being made about, you know, does it mean that Jesus said these things to these folks?

just thought I would throw that in being that the baseball season about to start.

[@32:46](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=1966.89) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, I'm glad you did. Thank you for the clarification, Mike. I agree. It's about, you know, the impact that you have with the story, right?

Because that, you know, some person remembers it a certain way, somebody else remembers it a different way, but because they remember it those ways because it impacted them.

Those events, those situations impacted them in their own life and their own relationship, right? And so it's the same thing with God.

It's what we feel out of the story that God is trying to speak to us. I think, Elizabeth, you got your hand raised.

Go ahead.

[@33:23](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=2003.42) - **Elizabeth J**

I had a question about Matthew 18 when we first started reading. When I think it was said that it's a solo endeavor discipleship.

I guess I want to know, some people seem to think that you have to listen to other people in the Christian community, like the church you attend, like other people keep you in line, or you can keep them in line if you feel that they're doing something not right.

And it's kind of like, it's, I guess, It's confusing to me because some people even think that the Holy Spirit is conferred by the word of mouth, by like your friends or your family.

So you're constantly like, you're supposed to be listening to them, you know, like. So I'm just kind of confused by that aspect, I guess.

[@34:17](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=2057.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, I understand where you're coming from. that's exactly why we're having this discussion today on the cost of discipleship because what does it really mean to be a disciple to learn?

And that's why we started with the definitions, right? Because discipline, which is the root of disciple, meaning are we trying to enforce our beliefs, the doctrine that we're trying to follow onto somebody else?

And I think that's what you're referring to when you say a church or other believers, you know, trying to get you quote in line, right?

That's the discipline somebody's applying to somebody else. Now, as a student who grew up in elementary school or discipline was actually allowed

By the teachers where they take a big wooden paddle and give you a spanking if they felt you deserved it Nobody likes that kind of discipline, right?

I know I did not I got it once or twice in third or fourth grade and I I did not like it and I probably did not respond well to it You know, I mean It's not like I'd change my behavior simply because I got a SWAT because otherwise I would have only had gotten one But I got multiples, right?

So it's like when we try to force others, there's a resistance and that's why that's ineffective discipline The best discipline is self discipline and that's why you have to learn scripture for yourself This is not in the scriptures we're gonna talk about but it says in first Timothy I believe it is study to show thyself approved unto God or workmen rightly dividing the word of truth, right?

It's up to us to build our relationship with God and let him speak to us We have multiple sources that we go to we can read the Bible Sometimes we don't fully understand it so we seek out things like this

Bible study, we seek out pastors, seek out friends, we seek out others who have who give us advice, right?

Who tell us how their perspective, just like Mike was talking about, their perspective on how they read that scripture.

What's your perspective on how you read that scripture? And then you start to line those up and say, hmm, what makes sense out of all the information that I'm getting?

Is there consistency or is there dynamic of difference, you know? And if there's too much dynamic of difference, then I go back to the scripture that says in 1 Corinthians 14 verse 33, God is not the author of confusion.

So if I'm being told different information and is confusing, that's not of God. But if I start to see things line up and things become clear, my confusion goes away and I get an understanding.

So that's what we're trying to cover today. I we were in verse 22, we read Luke and like we said,

We saw a little additional information there. What I also want to show you is in the end of that Luke phrase in verse 62.

We have another little example where Jesus said, you know, anybody who looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.

This is the same concept we were talking about. When you start making that decision, I'm going to live for God.

You can't straddle the line and you say, okay, I'm going to move forward. I'm going to let those dead things be dead, right?

And the plow is a thing that plowed the field, right? He gave us a mission. Go share the word.

But if we keep, if we stop plowing to look back, we're not accomplishing the purpose, right? When a farmer plowed, especially back then, they had a yoke of oxen they would use, right?

And you'd have to build momentum up to start breaking up that ground because it's not like today's modern machinery that made it convenient.

They took a lot of work for those oxen to drag that heavy blade because a man couldn't push it on his own.

He's heavy enough that he couldn't push it on his own. You need the ox to pull it. Well, those ox also had to have some momentum to get going.

Well, you start and stop that momentum. You're going to wear out the ox. They're not going to want to continue to plow.

If you as a disciple stop, keep looking back and forward, you're losing the momentum. You're going to gain with your relationship with God and you're going become disheartened, right?

doesn't want that for you. He wants you to keep going, keep being encouraged in his word. Anthony, go ahead.

[@38:33](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=2313.88) - **Anthony Signa**

Yeah. Kind of something that resonates with me about this part is that if you keep looking back and you keep focusing on the past, for example, I feel like you're stuck in a certain phase of your life where you can't move forward and you can't focus on what's in front of you.

And I feel like to live the mission that we need to with God, I feel like it's a mission that relies on faith and trust.

And even though we want to have that urge to look back for whatever reason or go reflect on our past, think it's about having that discipline to focus on what's in front of us and focus on what we can do to move forward.

[@39:14](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=2354.34) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, greatly said. Okay, let's go to verse 23, back in Matthew chapter 18. Verse 23 said, and when he entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

Okay, so remember, he saw the great crowds. He said, let's depart. We have a few disciples now who are following him.

So Jesus just weeded out the crowd down to those who are a little more sincere because now getting into a ship took a little more courage, right?

Some of us are land-based creatures. We don't want to get near the water, right? Because there's a certain level of threat, right?

That comes in that. Maybe we don't know to swim. Maybe we're afraid of storms. I don't come up, whatever, right?

So Jesus is weeding down the process. But Jesus also knows because he's God and flesh, he knows a storm is going to come.

So he's deliberately... getting these disciples into a situation that he knows is going to test them. Think about that.

He already knows. right. So discipleship means following God wherever he leads, even though you may not want to go there.

It means following God wherever he leads, even though you may not want to go there. Okay. Let's continue verse 24.

It said then, and behold, there arose a great tempest, not just a tempest, a great tempest. And what that word means is like an earth shake or a shaking, an earthquake, right?

Think that kind of tempest, right? In the sea, so much that the ship was covered with the waves, but he was asleep.

See, Jesus already knew this was going to happen. He's just sitting back relaxing. He's like, you know, let's see how they handle this.

Because discipleship is about growth and God has to know, are you indeed growing? Are you exercising what you're learning?

Okay. And so his disciples come to him and they woke him and they said Lord save us. We perish that word perish means we're lost or ruined We're destroyed.

We're going to be put to death. That's the emphasis of what they mean when they say perish, right? They are frantic And he said that I'm in verse 26.

Why are you fearful? O ye of a little faith Then he arose and rebuked the winds in the sea and there was a great calm not just a calm a great calm See the contrast Great earthquake great tempest to great calm and what was the catalyst in between?

It was God, but what could have been the tempest and what could have been the catalyst in between what should have been the catalyst in between?

the disciple and their faith Because Jesus laid back in the ship. knew this was going to happen and he knew they with their faith could have taken care of it Right because he had been teaching

He'd been instructing them. He'd been showing them and they hopefully should have worn like like all of us, right?

But but like all of us we sometimes fail. don't we don't fully grasp the lessons our life is teaching us God is trying to teach us through our lives.

Sometimes we we miss it and that's okay because Jesus is trying to say look the point of all this was so that your faith would be exercised and How do we know that because of the rest of Matthew 18?

That's gonna come up was this little storm This little event was actually preparing him for what was coming up even further.

Do you see we think God only sees one or two steps ahead of us? He sees way for further than that.

He sees every detail of our lives, right? He sees everything that's coming down the bike and so he knew when they encountered the demoniacs that they would also need to exercise Faith at that point.

So this is a trial a little test for them to say hey Realize you've got something in you. You just got to exercise it.

So I don't think it was a rebuke but why are you fee for a little faith? was an encouragement like, hey, there's no need to be afraid because you see the contrast, you see what God can do within you that we can take it from this extreme to this extreme, and the difference is God in you, that's incredible.

So when you then get to those situations where you've got face in the demoniac and things that are just out of this world because these situations are normal, physical, these things happen in this world, but the demoniac, those are supernatural things.

And if you can handle the things in this world, you can definitely handle the supernatural things because God is the power within you.

All right, so when you are sincerely following God, you can expect him to take care of you and you can trust that he's given you the power over the storms in your own life.

So don't let the storms separate you from your discipleship. Don't let the storms in your life separate you from your discipleship.

Okay, verse 27, but the man, or that translated human beings, marveled, which translated means wandered, they marveled, they wandered, saying what manner of this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him, okay?

So this experience opened their eyes to even fuller understanding of who Jesus is. They marveled, they wondered, they went, wow, we saw Him as this, but He's really this, right?

They saw something happen through the storm that they encountered. They saw something happen through the power He exercised in their life.

And because of that, it's changed their relationship, their dynamic with Him, right? They didn't take certain things of Him for granted anymore.

And I think that's what happens with our discipleship sometimes. We get into this rut, we get into this routine that we think God is a certain way.

And all of a sudden something slams into our life that says, wait a minute, you need to reevaluate how God really is in your life, right?

Because when you do that, when you, like Elizabeth was saying, you know, how do we dig in and find out really what is it?

What is it I'm supposed to believe? What is it? How am I supposed to react? Who am I supposed to react to?

Then you can dig deeper into that relationship. You find out more about yourself and you find out more about that relationship.

Does that make sense? Does this make sense to everybody or if I lost people? see a few nods. Okay, good.

just want to make sure I'm not getting in too deep here. All right, so discipleship means understanding the power of God to work in not only your life then, but in the lives and circumstances of others, because here they have this experience in the ship that's going to be translated to experience they have then with the Gatorines, right?

So God uses those experiences of that discipleship in your life to help affect not only your life but the lives of those around you.

So let's read verse 28. And when he was come to the other side to the country the Gurdesines also called the Gatorines.

There met him too possessed with devils coming out of the tombs, exceeding fear set so no man might pass by that way.

Now most of us know the story of the demoniacs, not the heads if you know that story. Most of us recall it's one, but here we have the same story and it's two.

Most of us probably don't realize that. Why do you think it's two? Well, it's probably because there was only one who has then turned into a disciple through the process of what God did in his life.

You see, we're told about the second one because when God comes into somebody's life, they have a decision to make.

He might set them free of alcoholism or drug addiction or or whatever, but they have a decision to make.

Are they going to become a disciple? They had an encounter with God, there's a difference between an encounter and discipleship.

And most of us, when we first came to God, we came because. of our encounter, right? Something supernatural happened in our life.

We go, wow, God really exists, but then we got to take that encounter into discipleship. Are we going to live for this God that we encountered?

Okay. And I have a belief or a feeling that one of them did and one of them didn't, but that's life.

We can't, everybody we interact with in our life is not going to accept the word of God. Matthew 18 or Luke 9, when it said that the responsibilities for us to go share the gospel, the responsibility is not to make them believe, it's to simply share the gospel, right?

That's discipleship. We live it and we share it. We can't make them believe. Go ahead, Laurie.

[@47:47](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=2867.32) - **Laurie Nelson**

It reminds me of the 10 lepers that Jesus healed and only one of the 10, 10% of the people healed came back to thank Jesus.

[@47:58](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=2878.24) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah. Yeah. So. You know, that's another truth that shows us when God encounters, you know, it's really an individual choice discipleship is an individual choice.

Okay, verse 29, Matthew, it says, behold, they cried out saying, what have we to do with the Jesus, the Son of God, thou are coming together to torn on us before the time.

So they both, both these demoniacs recognized to Jesus was, and they both responded continuing, and there was a good way off verse 30 from them.

A herd of many swine feeding, so the devils was all of them, saying, if thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine, and he said in them, go, and when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine, and behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place to the sea and perished in the waters.

so here the demons recognize who Jesus is, and they say, have you come to torment us, because they realize their destiny.

The demon's already recognized their destiny. They're going to end up in hell. They know that, and they don't want to go there.

See, they don't want to go there, because Because you know how bad it is. So why in the world would we ever want anybody to go there, right?

So they say, look, you know, we know you're going to cast us out of these these these human homes, these human shelters But if you're going to send us anywhere send us into the swine, right?

So he allows it and they run off the hill and they die, right? But the idea here is the swine These are Jewish people Raising swine.

I need you to think about that for a second Because Jesus God in the Old Testament told the Jewish people have nothing to do with swine Don't touch them.

Don't eat them. Don't even be around them Right because the swine represent Filth they live in filth they eat filth they're filthy and they run the huge risk of infection Right you raw pork you probably get I forget what the worm is but you know you got the the the risk there So Why would Jewish people have anything to do with swine?

So this is a symbolism that these people are living in rebelliousness. They're completely against the word of God. call that rebellion.

And when you open yourself up to rebellion, you open yourself up to demonic influence. You with me? So here they've opened themselves up to rebellion.

They're living in demonic influence, but yet God still had the power to deliver them. So there's hope no matter where you find yourself.

If you are in rebellion, currently in the past, you can come out of that. You just cry out to Jesus.

He can deliver you. Now what happened next? Verse 34 and the whole, and it, the verse 33, they that kept them fled and went their ways into the city, told everything what was to be fallen to the possessed of the devils and behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus.

And when they saw him, they saw him that he would depart out of their coasts. Now isn't that sad?

Here people living in rebellion saw the power of God. They had that encounter, but they wanted not. thing to do with God, right?

They saw their livelihood, their physical livelihood was destroyed, and they, you know, they rather have their physical than the spiritual.

John, I'm sorry, I see that your hand is up. Go ahead if you have something that you want to say.

[@51:18](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3078.8) - **ajoedyfoundation@gmail.com**

Yes, I was just trying to think. Laurie, I just said about how the the one of the person who was killed came unto God.

But in the sense of the Bible, there is one by Jesus Christ as the ill person, and he told the person, don't go.

But this person was so much excited, and he told the whole community because he had suffered enough, you see, enough tribulation.

I'm not, I'm only, you see. So it was so much excitable, not to hide the grace and mercy. as that God that had shown to him.

So, I'm wondering now, tell him, don't go and see it, but this man, you know, you know, I think there come a time when it is so much anxiety, when you say, no, this is hard to share the glory of God, because nobody was for him, but now you see the freedom that was never within or told.

So, I think at times that need a high times, I think this is also the coast of salvation, or the coast of being a disciple, because in normal life, it could have not been shared, but due to the fact that he had been in this momentation for a longer time, he had no option and just to say, this is the glory of God that he has seen.

[@52:49](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3169.08) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, that's a great point, John. agree, Julie. Well, with this whole thing being the disciples, and then speaking about the divaniacs and the swine and how the Jews were being rebellious

and raising the swine and they weren't even supposed to, but at the end of the day when you think of the story of the prodigal son, he had turned his back on God too, and he was at his lowest with the swine, but yet he made a choice that no, I can't be living this worldly life anymore, I need to turn it back to God, I need to make that choice, that personal accountability that I'm going to go back and make a difference and I want to choose God and live for God and not live this rebellious life anymore.

Excellent point, excellent point. Now most of you who've been to the Bible study know that I'm a guy, my background is accounting, so I'm a numbers guy, right?

And I told you that God talks to us at numbers sometimes. Now it's interesting that the story that we're reading here in Luke is also found in Matthew 8 and Matthew 8 and Luke 8, there's a relationship about discipleship and the number

eight represents new beginnings, right? And so new beginnings as a discipleship, that should be as clear as day, right?

We have a new beginning when we come and devote ourselves to God. He sets us on a new path and that's why everything we've talked about, you know, leaving the past behind, not constantly looking back, always kind of looking forward, going into that new life that God has given us makes complete sense to me.

One more scripture we're going to dive into, we're getting 10 minutes before the top of the hour. understand if you have to go.

I'm probably 75% of the way done. I totally understand if you have to jump. We do record this. It does get posted on my website.

So if you want to come back later and watch the rest of it, feel free. But for now let's go to Luke chapter 14, Luke chapter 14.

And we're going to read verses 15 through 33. So we're going to break it up because it's a long read and into three sections.

Alicia, would you mind? reading for us, verses 15 through 21.

[@55:06](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3306.88) - **Alicia**

Sure. When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Jesus replied, a certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet, he sent his servants to tell those who had been invited, come for every for everything is now ready.

But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said, I have just bought a field and I must go and see it.

Please excuse me. Another said, I have just bought five yoke of oxen. And I'm on my way to try them out.

Please excuse me. Still another side, I just got married. So I cannot come. The service Her bank came back and reported this to the master, then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant go out quickly into the streets and lay to the town and bring in the poor, the crippled and the blind and the lane.

[@56:20](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3380.34) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. And Ashley, would you mind reading verses 22 through 28?

[@56:34](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3394.64) - **Ashlee**

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room, and the Lord said unto the servant go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled.

For I say unto you that none of those men which were binged shall taste of my supper. Did you want me to keep going so I didn't hear?

There went great multitudes with him, and he turned and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother and wife, and children and brother and sisters, yay and his own life also he cannot be my disciple.

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me cannot be my disciple, for which of you intending to build a tower, siteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it.

[@57:34](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3454.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, thank you. And Brian, do you mind reading the rest of 29 through 35?

[@57:45](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3465.12) - **Brian**

29?

[@57:46](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3466.32) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

29 through 35, please.

[@57:48](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3468.04) - **Brian**

Plus, after this, after he said he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish, I'll see it began to mock him, saying this man began to build

who was not able to finish, or what king going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with 10,000 to meet him, who comes against him with 20,000, or else well, the other still sit a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.

So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has, cannot be my disciple. Salt is good, but if the salt is lost in spake flavor, how can it be seasoned?

It is neither fit for the land or the dung hill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

[@58:50](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3530.46) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. All right, so here in Luke chapter 14, we have Jesus in the verses beforehand sitting in the

also the Pharisee having a meal. And one of them in starting in verse 15 where he read says, Hey, you know, that'd be cool.

Bless is anybody that's going to eat bread with you in the kingdom. Now, bread represents the word of God inscription, right?

And obviously the kingdom of heaven, right? kingdom of God represents heaven. So here, this guy, I don't know if it's a Pharisee spoke up or whoever is there in the crowd speaks this up, thinking he's going to make an impression, right?

Discipleship is not about making an impression on God, right? It's about devouring the word of God so that you understand it and sharing it with others.

But Jesus had just talked to about humility at a feast, right? Because if you read the verses beforehand, he said, if you're brought to a wedding feast and you're given a place of low honor, you know, you're better off taking that place and allowing somebody to bring you up to a place of honor if you so deserve it, rather than taking a place of honor and then

having to take a lower seat if somebody else comes, right? So he would just been talking about being humble, right?

Because discipleship is about being humble. It's realizing and humility is not like thinking less of yourself. It's thinking, it's thinking appropriately about yourself of who you are in God, right?

That you are a child of God and that he loves you and that you are deserving of his love, that you are deserving of his grace.

Not that you are like dirt or unworthy or anything like that, right? Anything, anything, negativity about yourself. That's not true humility.

Humility is just knowing who you are and being in the right place, the right time, right spot with God.

And he will, promotion comes from God, his scripture says, so he'll put you where you need to be. And yet this person didn't quite get it because they say, hey, you know, it's going to be great to just be in your kingdom, you know, and trying to impress Jesus with this thought.

And so Jesus goes into another story to help prove the point he taught, he's against. as a certain man.

We see that phrase previously, certain, right? So again, he's not trying to point anybody out, but saying this applies to everybody.

And this man, which we can say is probably God in the story, makes a great supper, right? The wedding feast of the land, he makes a great supper, and he sends a servants at supper time.

And this could be related to the end times, because supper time is just like, supper's already made. You're about ready to sit down and eat it.

That's supper time, right? It's not like the preparation beforehand. It's hot, it's ready, it's time. We are living in end times as you might think, right?

God could come back at any moment, anytime. He said, be on the lookout, right? Because you don't know when it's going to happen.

So you've got to live as though it's supper time right now, right? So he says, all those that were bitten to come, let them come.

And who are those who been to come? They're those who believe in God, right? In this related story. And so those who are descended,

disciples, those who believe in God who are supposed disciples, they start making excuses. Now it says in verse 18, they with all with one consent, consent means agreement.

So if you think in terms of like denominations, organizations are in agreement, denominations are in agreement, right? You're in that denomination more than likely because you agree with who they are, what they profess, right?

And so as a group, they were hanging out as a group, they all reached this agreement, we don't want to go.

We're not interesting going, right? So they each came up with their own excuses. They were focused on earthly possessions, right?

I bought a piece of ground, earthly possession. Now they said, I have five, five yoke of ox, five representing grace, meaning they understood grace, but they were only applying it to the physical, right?

For what they could get out of it, their yoke of ox, their production. and their prosperity in this world, right?

They believe they only obtain the grace through their work for God. That's not what discipleship is. We don't earn our place with God because of what we do for God.

We earn our place for God simply because we are his children, because he loves us. Now they're said, I'm married, I'm involved in the pleasures of this world.

I want the physical pleasure, right? So they've got possessions they're talking about, they're talking about even spiritual works to get possessions, they're talking about earthly pleasures, everything they're focused on is the wrong thing as disciples.

So the servant comes in tells the Lord, hey, this is what happened and he gets angry, right? Scripture says, the Lord of the house gets angry and he says, go out and tell everybody else, anybody else who will then to come in because he wants to have this feast.

And he does so in his still room. Even at the last minute there's still room and he says compel them to come in compel is an actionable word here It's like you know Shake them wake them do whatever you have to do to get them there as Disciples that's our role do whatever you have to do to try to convince them to show them that this is good for them, right?

[@1:04:24](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3864.32) - **Anthony Signa**

you got your hand up go ahead Yeah, you know I think a lot of what's being said here is is really powerful because it kind of at least to me It shows that you know the the word of God is is is kind of something that's absolute like we need to have you know Full faith not like partial faith in what's going on in our life and our connection with God I think it's a matter of you know We might not have all the answers and you know there might be moments of like you know uncertainty in our life Or you know moments where we want to hold on to what's in front of us But I think as disciples and followers of God.

think it's important to recognize that It's really up to us to make that difference and to establish that connection with him and to really do what's kind of uncomfortable at times to help ourselves become closer to him.

[@1:05:14](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=3914.4) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes, I couldn't have said that any better. think that's great, Anthony. think that's great. It reminds me of an example I saw on Facebook.

This lady was interviewing protesters for the Palestinian situation. And these were people screaming for Palestine, and she was interviewing and asking questions like, what's the West Bank?

When they say from the river to the sea, what does that mean? And these people had no answers because they didn't know.

They didn't know the river was Jordan and they didn't know anything about the situation. But here they are protesting.

Here, as disciples, we have a much better knowledge, and yet what are we doing? We're sitting back. so often, we aren't stepping out to say, hey, I know what God did for me.

You don't have to know scripture in and out, you know, to be able to share it. Take what you do know and say, this is what God did for me and live it, right?

Just live it before somebody. And when you get asked questioned, point them to what God did for you, point them to the scripture that you do know, right?

God, it's that the scripture comes to my mind about the talents, right? were given five, some were given 10, one was given two, right?

It's all about what you do with what you have because in the end, if you did something with it, you're going to receive more, right?

And through that more, you're going to grow, right? Hebrews 11, verse six, he is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him.

You exercise your faith, you do what you can do, and he will reward you in the exercising of your faith.

He'll grow you, deepen that relationship with you. So back on topic with this particular description in Luke. You know, so he compels others to come in and he says, for none of those previous disciples are going to taste the supper.

That's pretty sad because it's about our response to God and our obedience to his word that Anthony, so I would want we said, it's about our obedience to his word that connects us to heaven and we could sum it up this way.

Actions speak louder than words. Actions speak louder than words, even when it comes to the relationship of God. And in verse 25 and there went great multitudes with him, here we are again in the concept of multitudes.

If he flipped the story here, great multitudes with him and turned and said to them, so you might find multitudes being attracted, but again it's going to come down and Jesus says, if any man come to me and hate, that word hate is translated as detest, love less, not his father and mother and wife and children, brother and sisters, his own life also.

but He cannot be my disciple. And whosoever does not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

There's two big indications of what it means to be a disciple. It's not that we literally hate our parents, for example.

It's not that we literally hate our spouse. It's that we love God so much that in comparison, if somebody were to look at it from the outside and could try to compare it, those would be the only words they could come up with.

That you love God so much and in comparison to that, you must hate your wife. But it's not that we actually do.

We love our wife, we love our husband, we love our children, we love our parents, but we love God so much more that as John pointed out, we are compelled, we can't keep it inside.

We have to share it. We're told to put a cap on it, but we just can't because the cap would blow right off because of how much we love God, okay?

And the next verse, he says, for which of you intending to build a tower sits not. down first and count if that word count if that member the th and the in the King James means continuously So you got to continuously count the cost of whether he has sufficient to build it So when when we built this house that I live in We we had to first plan out a budget And so yeah, okay, have a budget we're gonna build the house But then things come up As you know, you decide what kind of stone on the fireplace or or what kind of siding You know and and all of a sudden your budget starts to shift so you have to constantly be on top of it It's the same thing with discipleship Your relationship constantly should be growing with God and at any point in time You should be self-evaluating saying where am I in my relationship with God?

Am I progressing or am I resisting? Is what God asked asking me right now Am I willing to do it?

Am I gonna go? Am I gonna get in that boat even knowing there's a storm ahead? Because do I trust the power of God to get me through that or?

Am I too afraid? And if I'm afraid, that's fear tugging on me from the past, right? And I need to suffer that fear.

I need to say, God, I'm sorry. That's what repentance is all about, saying, God, I'm sorry. I'm afraid and I need you to break that fear off of me.

I want to trust you. Show me how to trust you more. And that's why he then equates it to king making war.

See, there's a reason God does everything in scripture for a reason. He's talking, you've got to count the cost and realize when you do, you're in the middle of a war, you're in a spiritual battle.

You are in the middle of a spiritual battle. So he says, you've got to count the cost because it's going to be a spiritual victory or it's going to be a spiritual defeat, depending on the decisions you make.

And you're willing to follow God or not. You've got the army of heavens behind you. You've got to know that.

So it becomes an easier decision when you know that. When you know the power of God, because when you saw him take you through the boat and you get to the place of the Gatorines and you see this demonic spiritual war.

going on, you've already been there, you know God's power is going to prevail. So you know you've got the armies of heaven back in you, so it should be an easier decision, right?

But if you don't, then you've got to seek the peace of God, you've got to seek him out. He gets to verse 33.

So likewise, whosoever be of you that forsake it, again, the TH, meaning you've got to constantly separate yourself from that, forsake it all the time, even when it comes back into your face, full frontal, and you say, nope, nope, there's a temptation there, and I realize the temptation because it's, we're human, temptations are going to come.

We understand that, but we have to be able to say, no, no, God, I don't want to get into that.

I've been there before, I know that's going to mess me up, and we got to say, God, I need you to help me get through this.

And then he equates it to salt, and I'm going to, I see your hand raised, Mike, I'll get to it in just a second because I'm almost done.

So he gets to salt, you know, your discipleship is you are salt. You have to realize you are the taste that should be bringing others to God because of the way you're living now There's different types of salt in this day and age you know black garlic salt Himalayan pink salt.

Well, there's there's different flavors of salt So you don't have to be exactly like somebody else in your relationship with God You know you aren't meant to look like like Ashley looks if you're Elizabeth You aren't meant to look like Brian looks if you're Rick or you're Anthony right You you have your own style.

You have your own relationship with God. You're going to reach people I could never reach I'm gonna reach people you can never reach by being you and knowing who you are in God Right you will be salt But what happens when salt loses its saltiness?

And so I went and I looked up the definition here I look I read about it how salt can lose saltiness.

This is what I found Salt can lose its saltiness different processes that affect its chemical composition or concentration Salt can lose its saltiness by absorbing water from the air, dissolving in water, undergoing chemical reactions or here it is being mixed with other ingredients.

These processes can make salt less dense, less useful, and less flavorful. So if you haven't been the type of salt you want to be, if you haven't been the disciple you want to be, here's what it boils down to.

cost of discipleship is decision-making time. If you're not where you're at or you'd like to be at with your relationship with God, you have to say, what have I been mixed up with?

What have I been mixed up with that is affecting me? Have I been looking back? Have temptation been growing me away from God?

Have I been too much of my own thoughts? Have I been too much of my own feelings? Have I not been enough in the Word of God?

Have I not been trying to just live it for myself? Have I not been self-disciplined to be a proper disciple?

Those are hard questions, but you know what? The good thing about God is it doesn't matter where you've been or even where you're at.

He's the God of now who can lead you into a better tomorrow. If you simply make a decision right now to say, God, I want all of that to change.

I want to be who you want me to be. Amen? All right, Mike, go ahead.

[@1:14:29](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=4469.16) - **Mike**

So, Rick, as you go through the Scriptures, I mean, I'm always looking to my left because I have them up on a different screen.

I also look at what they call the Greek interlinear at the same time. And where it says, those of you who does not renounce all that he has, that's in the ESV, it's in the middle voice in the Greek, which kind of means be honest.

and talk to yourself about it, sort of the same sense, I think it's in Corinthians where let a man examine himself before taking communion, which is to say, it's very good to just about where I am with my discipleship, actually in the Old Testament they do the same thing with the concept of confession, it's just in the Hebrew, but not in the Greek, so we don't live off of what we did five years ago, I accepted the Lord, but I haven't kind of checked in and, you know,

that a reality check and had a heart with myself about, am I following the road that I set out on five years ago, that's what I think you can also see in this scripture.

[@1:16:17](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=4577.58) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, yeah. I believe, and that's exactly what I would think was trying to sum up in the end, we have to self-evaluate.

And it's times like this, like this Bible study that will provoke us, to self-evaluate, because we get caught up in life, we just get caught up in routine, and at times we need to be reminded, pause, take a second.

Where are you at? Do you want to get in the boat that is before you or not? You have to make the decision.

God isn't going to force you to do anything because if we will, He's not going force you to get into that next boat and go to that next storm.

Now, you know, the easiest way I can say that you've got, it's a moment-by-moment decision. by decision type evaluation, but we don't tend to think of it moment by moment, second by second decision because we just live our lives.

So whenever the best way to realize you need self-evaluation is when you find yourself in a difficult or you find yourself in a new situation or you find that temptation and the old temptation is coming at you again, right, that you didn't expect out of the blue.

It's just like, wow, I thought I dealt with that already, right? And I think I'm speaking to somebody, right?

You thought you dealt with something already and you thought you had victory over it already, but here it is in your face again.

Well, and you feel like it's stronger this time. Well, take that victory you had in the past and apply it now and ask God to help you because it's just a lie in the enemy.

I have a cat as you saw walk through, right? And you know what a cat gets scared? it does is it puffs up, it makes it appear that it's bigger, but it's not really.

It's not really bigger. You look at it and it may look bigger, but it's not. It's the same old cat And you already had victory over at once.

God can't get you that victory again. Just trust him All right, um, I want to open that up to comments and questions after but I want to pray for us right now first if I may Okay, and then after we have comments and questions.

also like to take prayer requests after that But I just want to pray about the lesson right now Because I really feel it spoke to a lot of people Lord Jesus.

I thank you for your power and your presence in this moment and For all the wonderful friends who joined us today God, I believe you spoke to each of our hearts Specific things that we've gathered out of this lesson I pray God that you would stir that in us that you'd help will rise up the desire to live for you To apply your word to be that disciple God that you call us to be God we understand there's a cost to it, but it's not a heavy cost It's just a decision a decision we have

to make God. And I pray that you give us the courage to make that decision, to draw closer to you, to be usable by you, God, for us to just live out that example.

We love you, we praise you, you you for it, Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen. All right, so let's open it up to other questions, thoughts, comments, and I know Julie raised her hand, so go ahead, Julie.

Well, I just want to encourage everyone and kind of remind you, just like in Matthew and when the disciples were going through that storm.

God knew it was going to happen, Jesus knew way in advance it was going to happen, it framed them.

But the reason that they were in it is because they were doing something right in their walk with God.

They were being challenged, the enemy was attacking them. He doesn't want you to continue forward in your faith. He wants to create fears and anxiety that are going to stop you and be a stumbling block.

But when you're in mystery, there's a reason that you're doing something right in your lock of God and you will become stronger in your faith and your walk as a result of it when you go get through it.

It's when you're not being attacked. That's when you should go, maybe I'm not doing something right. really need to reevaluate where my walk is with God and keep pushing on because those trials, even though none of us like them, are for a really good and powerful reason in God's kingdom.

Yeah, Julie, you can't see it for Brian is saying, preach on Julie. But yeah, I agree with you. If you're not being attacked by the enemy, that's because he knows he already has you.

If you're facing an attack, it's because he knows you're a threat to his kingdom and he doesn't want that to happen.

So he's trying to discourage you. So just take heart and keep fighting the battle. Keep clinging to God. Anybody else's questions, comments, concerns, whatever?

[@1:20:54](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=4854.78) - **Laurie Nelson**

Yes, when we're talking about salt and then immediately, thought of Lot's wife, how, you know, she was redeemed out of the city that was being destroyed and was told not to look back.

And she did. And I don't think it's an accident that she turned into a pillar of salt, I think.

And that the Bible says that that kind of salt that loses its flavor is meant is good for nothing but to be trodden under foot.

And man, I don't want to be that disciple. I want to be in that boat. And I pray that the Lord gives us steadfast love to see it through.

I mean, only he can draw us and give us that desire to come to him.

[@1:21:43](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=4903.62) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Amen. Anybody else? Comment, thought. did it impact you today? Did this? Yeah, go ahead, Ashley.

[@1:21:57](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=4917.06) - **Ashlee**

I was just kind of thinking as I processed through everything that you covered and it just something that kind of stood out to me is that you know, everyone's at a different space of what you covered.

Some people might still be in the decision-making where they're just now deciding to walk after the Lord or to draw closer to Him.

Some people might be on that boat in the storm being tested and going through those trials, some people maybe have come off the boat and they came off and they were filled and they were lit up and they were ready to go out and make disciples but maybe they're thinking, gosh, I should do some self-evaluation, know, maybe I need to kind of look again, I've gotten kind of lukewarm and then maybe some are still on fire but they feel called to something else and maybe it's time, you know, to trust God with no fear and take that next step.

and and maybe you need to just make sure nothing else is mixed in so that your saltiness is very salty and I think I just felt in my spirit that we have to be you know don't be overwhelmed don't don't be overwhelmed with with looking just be where you are and know that God has got you and keep moving forward because I think if you try to take all of this if you're just at the beginning and you get too far ahead you might feel overwhelmed that's kind of what I was trying to say like we're all at a different place but God is using us and I think ultimately what you are trying to say is keep going forward and don't look back excellent excellent word of encouragement thank you for sharing that anybody else Brian you want to say something I was going to try and raise my hand but I couldn't find my hand thing I've seen your hand at least you're on screen so no it's just

[@1:24:00](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5040.0) - **Brian**

just kind of reminds you that, you know, like you said, actually, that was fantastic that we got to not be comparing ourselves to others, because their their walk is their walk.

And I've done it myself where I've compared, well, I'm not to the place where this person is and I should be there because I've been doing this longer and, you know, you used to get in the guilt feeling and and that's what I've always had to struggle with and I just push it away and and just do my thing with God, you know, and what he tells me.

And a lot of it's just being humble and keeping your mouth shut. If you don't have anything constructive to say, you know what I mean?

And that's kind of I just I try to try to humble myself because that was always the one that was talked too much, you know, and got myself in trouble.

So yeah, I think that's that was really good, Ashley.

[@1:24:57](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5097.3) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you for sharing the Brian. I've been there with you too. I got myself in trouble. Well, I said sometimes and it's better sometimes just keep my mouth shut.

But totally agree. Anthony, I want you to open your mouth though and share whatever you want to share, please.

[@1:25:08](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5108.54) - **Anthony Signa**

Yeah, for me, you know, what kind of stands out from all this is that, and especially in my life too, it's learning to accept the concern to the unknown and all the uncomfortable emotions that are associated with us, you know, daily and throughout our week, throughout our life, you know, that's something that I've struggled with for a while.

And I think like, you know, it took a long time for me to kind of accept and kind of fully have their relationship with God, you know, give them that full faith, trust and control and say, you know, I'm ready to kind of, you know, enter in this kind of relationship and, you know, fully engage and fully give you my, you know, full trust, even though it is scary, even though I don't know what's ahead, you know, I don't know what's going to, you know, present day to day, but being able to kind of just take that risk and to,

take that leap of faith and being able to really commit yourself to knowing that he knows what's best for you at the end of the day, and even though if you may not see it, he's going to show it to you one way or another.

[@1:26:14](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5174.4) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

I agree. Anthony, I'm feeling impressed. You're going through transition in your life right now, a work transition or a relational transition of some magnitude?

[@1:26:25](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5185.82) - **Anthony Signa**

I recently transitioned into a new career, so I'm in school right now for clinical mental health counseling, so this has been the biggest change in my life, a lot of it was uncertain about what decisions should be made moving forward, but I think a lot of it was just relying on God and just being able to have that faith and have that trust even in times of management or times of uncertainty, and that's really what's helped me move forward during.

You know a lot of these a lot of these difficult moments Awesome awesome.

[@1:27:04](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5224.32) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

I what I see Anthony when I thought that word that word impressed upon me when you were talking is I see sunrise I see something dawning and I want to speak a word of encouragement to you that God is helping you through that transition That you just talked about and there is sunrise There's there's hope and encouragement and positivity and light coming through that so stay on stay with it God bless you Anybody else want to share anything?

[@1:27:29](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5249.62) - **Elizabeth J**

Yeah, go ahead and Elizabeth for me it was the parks where we read about where you know the disciples or whoever the men were who were kind of I felt they were making excuses for not to be able to follow him like you know different times They were like well, I can't come with you because I have to do this.

I have to tend to my family and for me it was I read it to mean that You know, there should be no excuses right from

from myself or like anyone who wants to follow, and not only that, but the decision to be a disciple should come from within, right?

can make you do anything. has to be your decision, it has to come from inside of you.

[@1:28:19](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5299.5) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, that's a very good point. Very good point. Thank you for hearing that. Anybody else?

[@1:28:26](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5306.98) - **Laurie Nelson**

Yeah, Rick, you had, you asked to, I forget how you worded it, but how it impacted or how it impressed on each of us.

And just personally, when you, there were two moments during your Bible study where you said something that just completely sent electricity through my body.

one of them was the servants at the end were sent out to compel people to come in. And I had recently been feeling so

I'm down about a recent person that I had compelled, know, that had been so lukewarm, lukewarm, lukewarm, sure, not sure, not sure.

And I finally just compelled. And I, and I didn't get the best reaction, but I got a thoughtful reaction, at least.

And I remember feeling so down about that, like, did I push too hard? Did I, did I come off a little too strong?

But when you said that, that person popped into my mind and got, it was like an assurance from God that, no, this is what we need to be doing for certain people.

And then the second one was when you talked about temptation creeping back in that you thought you had the victory over, that totally sent goosebumps.

I mean, because I personally have struggled with temptation to the point where I felt defeated and needed deliverance. And I received that deliverance.

continuously, and just the re-examining of yourself, I think you should never, ever think that you might not need a current victory over it again, or a reaffirming victory over it again, or just to reaffirm that even though your house is cleaned, that you have the Lord of Lords living there so that it can't creep back in.

And so that one really touched me right there.

[@1:30:26](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5426.52) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you for sharing those, Lori. Both of those examples are real-life examples. me, for example, there are temptations that come at me that I deal with, right?

That I go, wait a minute, I've had victory over that. I'm not giving in to that. So that's why I shared that.

other one about compelling people, I can relate because I did a job in Green Bay where I was there for quite some time and I was having some issues and we talked.

And I got her and her husband to agree to a Bible study, one-on-one, and I would go to their house weekly and we'd go through Bible study, and we're on the fifth Bible study.

And I knew the week before was a pivotal point and I compelled I mean like that is it was about making that decision for God Are you going to make that decision or not?

And that was what the lesson was on that Bible study And I just laid it on the table and I used a little negotiation tactic skills because obviously as a consultant in my background I know that that part of the negotiation skills is when you've laid out your case you just shut up Right and the first person who talks is what they call lose But I think it's a win right in this case when you're asking when make a decision for God So I just laid it out there and it said you know the point is now What what are you gonna do about this thing that you're learning for God and are you gonna live for him or not?

You know what kind of thing? I'm paraphrasing her and then I just shut up And you could cut the tension with a knife in the room and it was it was sad I felt like most people when I've done that they respond very positively and there was just tension So I after several minutes.

I ended up being the one to speak and we wrapped up the Bible study Well, the next week, in week number five, they were pleasant enough to go through the Bible study, but at the end they basically said, and it was supposed to be 12-week lesson, and they basically said, I think we're done.

It broke my heart. It really broke my heart. I felt like, you know, a failure, and God had to remind me, you know, you know, we aren't the ones that convinced them, right?

We compel them, meaning we do everything we can within our power to show them love and to show them the truth and be that example, but the decision is ultimately theirs.

So I think we all need to be reminded of that at times. Okay. Well, yeah, Ashley, one last thing here, let's take Ashley and then we'll get into prayer requests, okay?

[@1:32:44](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5564.36) - **Ashlee**

I just wanted to mention that something that stood out to me when I was taking notes, I wrote it down a few times, was the mention of the past.

Don't look back. Don't let fear from the past. Don't let things from the past creep back in. And... immediately I was just reminded that that's one of Satan's greatest tactics.

One of his greatest tactics is to remind us of the past because if he can, then he's bringing us most of the time right back to those failures, to those places of foolishness or sinfulness or pride or whatever addiction and how important it truly is that we do not look back, that we truly keep our eyes forward because otherwise we do give Satan a very big foothold.

Like he is holding on tight when we look back every single time. It's like bringing things that we've been forgiven for.

Why else then did Jesus die so that we'd have his grace and forgiveness, but Satan doesn't want that because he knows that's where the freedom is.

So that's something that really stood out to me.

[@1:33:50](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5630.14) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

You got it Ashley and I perceive you as a very confident Christian woman and I'm speaking this in faith that you have been set free from the spirit of rejection.

that of rejection has been broken off of you, and you are no longer bound by it in Jesus' name.

I don't know if that applies or not, but if it does take it and run with it because God is blessing you.

All right, let's open it up to any prayer requests. Anybody need prayer requests or have a prayer request? I would ask, I'll go first and just pave the way for you.

I pray, I would ask that you pray for my physical health. I'm not quite sure what's going on, but ever since about December, I've been under attack physically, and I can't seem to get any answers, but my strength is being sapped for me.

That's about all I can put it words to. Yeah, Ashley.

[@1:34:48](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5688.4) - **Ashlee**

Sorry, again, but if you could also pray for two things, my children and I have been sick for about a month, and it's just been relentless, so we are also awarded

down and it's affected just our voices particularly a lot of congestion so that's one thing and then another thing is that my children and I have sort of pressed into ministry worshiping together and it's something for a few years that we've desired to do but have for different reasons not been able to and so just prayer over that we definitely feel the enemy against us and so just prayers for our health and then just prayers that we look forward you know of course got it thank you uh Rachel um as always for my mother and her cancer recovery um and for Nate and his growth and faith and healing over his addiction you got it thank you anybody else yes for my husband that

[@1:36:00](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5760.0) - **Laurie Nelson**

at, he would receive a revelation and an encounter with God. Specifically, it was prophesied over him that the Holy Spirit would be the one to break through the heart of stone.

So if we could just pray for that.

[@1:36:16](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=5776.14) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

course, I got that. Anybody else? All right, let's go ahead and pray for these things. Lord Jesus, I thank you for again, allowing us to come together.

You said two or three are gathered in your name. You are in your midst. doesn't matter that we're separated from distance, but Lord God, this technology that you've allowed us to come together in this place and this time is still as powerful, Lord.

And so God, we release right now angels of healing to Ashley and her children that you would touch their physical bodies, that you'd give them health and restoration, that you'd lift them up and give them energy and strength.

God, rebuke any virus or any bacteria coming against them and purge them of that Lord God with them. feeling energy and vitality return in Jesus name.

We also ask God that you lift them up in their endeavor to worship together, to do ministry together as a family, knit them together, help them more to be unified and Lord open doors for them to be able to share that with others that would draw them to God, that they would be impressed upon by the flowing of the Spirit through them to that in and through that ministry.

Lord, to those that are listening, to those that observe to those that are craving God that need to be drawn closer to you, open those opportunities, facilitate those times of togetherness in Jesus name.

Lord, we lift up Rachel's mother to you God, continue to give her strength, remove and and alleviate the cancerous cells God without doing damage to the other cells around that are healthy.

Lord, give her mother energy and strength to get through this process God. her by tallying angels of comfort, let her be surrounded by angels of

comfort, Lord God, that just she feels that embrace that she feels that encouragement that she physically and spiritually feels that God that she couldn't explain it, but God that it be testimony to her Lord, knowing that she is in your presence and that you are there with her God.

Give Rachel wisdom, guidance and direction through this process to Lord, help her to mean encouragement to her mother of over.

We lift up Nate, God in his decision-making, Lord God, that he would continuously take those steps towards you and his faith would grow.

Let it every day just become stronger and stronger, God, and that that addiction would be broken off in him, God, that the cravings would stop immediately right now in the name of Jesus, and God that his hunger and thirst would be after you instead and for your word, that he just couldn't get enough of your word, Lord, and let him consume it, let him process it in his heart and in his mind, and let him help him grow in Jesus' name.

Lord, we lift up Lord's husband to you, Jesus, but that revelation and that prophecy over him would come to pass, God.

I ask Did you open his eyes to the goodness of you that he would taste, see, your goodness, because it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, God help him, Lord, to just observe it in his own life, and those around him, God, that he just could not escape your goodness in the name of Jesus.

And I thank you also for touching my friends here today. I ask a blessing upon them as they go through the rest of their weekend, that they would be reminded of how good you are, Lord, that they would see you moving in their lives, that you encourage them over the next few weeks until we get together, God, that they would be impressed upon by the fingerprints that you leave upon them here today.

And I thank you for touching me and me and my health in Jesus' name. We give you glory and praise in Jesus' name.

Amen. All right. Well, thank you, everybody. We really do appreciate you being here. We love you all, and I hope to see you in a couple of weeks.

Okay. God bless.

[@1:40:03](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=6003.74) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Well, I'm a 42 year ICU open heart GI nurse, I don't, is there anybody else on?

[@1:40:16](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=6016.83) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

There's a few people left on, do you want to call me on my cell phone? Kat, are you still there?

[@1:40:33](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=6033.26) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Yes, I'm still here, hang on, my bird was yelling, hold on, no problem, go ahead. I can give you my cell phone if you want to give me a call, I'll call you, okay, so it's 6 0 8, 6 0 8, 9 2 1, 9 2 1, 8 0 4 7, 8 0 4 7.

Yeah, I'll call you right back.

[@1:41:01](https://fathom.video/share/1uiNa2ustnz7zqN6Vxnx9Es1vA-pcUyB?timestamp=6061.8) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, I don't can help but God has used me so