

## **BUMC Weekly Bible and Sermon Study**

**Sermon: “Teachable” from the “Core Values” sermon series**

**Scripture: John 1:35-42**

### **Key take-aways from the Scripture**

- In this section of John, we read about the gathering of Jesus’ first disciples. Verse 35-37 says, “The next day John (John the Baptist) again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look here is the Lamb of God! The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus’”
- It is interesting to note that John is the only Gospel writer to mention that Jesus’ first disciples came from those that followed John the Baptist. The NRSV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible explains, “Ancient schools of teachers were sometimes competitive; only rarely were teachers so impressed with another teacher as to refer their students to them. John refers his own disciples to Jesus.”
- In verse 38, Jesus turned and said to them “What are you looking for?” The implication is that He was asking more than just a simple question of what they want from Him, rather, Jesus is asking them what they are seeking in life. They respond by asking Him, “Rabbi, where are you staying?”
- In verse 39, Jesus responds to them by saying, “Come and see.” They followed Him and saw where He was staying and remained with Him. This took place at about 4:00 pm. The time suggests that it might have been too late for them to walk back home if they lived far away.
- In verse 40-42, we read about Andrew accepting what John the Baptist says about Jesus and then going to tell his brother, Simon Peter, about Christ. When he finds Simon Peter, Andrew tells him, “We have found the Messiah (Christ)!”
- Verse 42 says, “Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, ‘Your name is Simon, son of John-but you will be called Cephas (Peter)’”. Jesus saw what Simon Peter was to become, and that is the “rock” of the church! By giving Simon a new name (adding Peter), Jesus is showing us a transformation of Simon to Simon Peter to become the rock of the early church!

### Key take-aways from the Sermon

- We are continuing our series on “Core Values”, which act as our compass or guard rails in life that guide us in our mission and vision in life. The BUMC core value we are examining today is “Teachable”.
- The Greek term for “disciple” is student, learner, apprentice. For a student to become proficient in a subject, they must be “teachable”.
- Being teachable is not just about *aptitude*, but also *attitude*. It begins with the desire to listen and understand. This includes a desire to “unlearn” to “re-learn”. It is shifting from “knowing” to “unknowing”, so that we can learn (in other words, to remain open, curious, and teachable).
- In John 1, some of the original disciples of Jesus were students of John the Baptist before following Jesus. When Jesus asks them, “What do you want”, they respond with “Rabbi, where are you staying?” They want to stay and learn from Him. He is inviting the student into relationship, and they remained with Him.
- Sirach 6:36-37 (from the Apocrypha, which is not considered *canonical* but used as a *devotional* reading) and Proverbs 8:34-35 offer insight into the riches of wanting to learn.
- To be a disciple means that you absorb everything about the one giving instruction. It’s not just about mastering a concept or trade, but about binding yourself to a “Master” or a ‘Rabbi” until we become like them.
- *Working* for Jesus is no substitute for *walking* with Jesus. You must stay “hungry” and teachable. Think of the blessings of what He teaches!
- As disciples we are also called to teach others as this is part of the Great Commission! We are to disciple one another!
- Our biggest concern in life should not be about failure, but in succeeding in things that do not matter to our Rabbi.
- Sometimes, when we’re not careful, we conform the precious images of God into human functions instead of human beings (observation from the book *Think like a 5-year-old: Reclaim your wonder & create Great things* by Len Wilson).
- The way for a core value to become a core virtue is to sit at the feet of our Rabbi and learn! This way we come back to ourselves as children of God, and students who can teach and disciples that can disciple.

### Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

- What were your key take-aways from the sermon? How can you apply this to your everyday life?
- How is being “Teachable” a part of being a disciple?
- How can we be “Teachable”?
- Read the story of Jesus visiting Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42. How does this story relate to being “teachable”? (see about 37 minutes in to the 8:30 am Traditional Worship service)
- Consider these questions (in an effort to shift from “I” to “we”) from the book “Life Worth Living: A Guide to What Matters Most” by Miroslav Volf, Matthew Croasmun, and Ryan McAnnally-Linz: (1) Is what you are doing getting you what you want; (2) what do you really want; and (3) Is what you want worth wanting?

