

引言 INTRODUCTION

We go with our goals. Your boss, teacher or family members may assign you some tasks. But there must be some higher goals beyond those routine duties. For example, you want to get into a dream college, climb up the career ladder or be a better housewife and mom. Those aspirations motivate you to get out of bed every day. What applies to people is also true for an organization. A school, company or church has something called a mission statement. It defines purpose, guides planning and energizes people. The Council of our church revised our mission statement last year. It reads: our mission is “To make disciples, who love God supremely, love one another humbly and love the world sacrificially.” We will spend four Sundays to ponder on this statement. My prayer is that we will understand it and embrace it. Next time, when people ask you what your church does, then you can quote our mission statement and explain it. We begin by talking about the disciplines of being disciples of Jesus. Here is the one thing I hope you will remember when you walk out from here: Christians, believers and disciples refer to the same group of people. In other words, every Christian is a disciple of Jesus. The Greek word for “disciple” means a student. Disciples learn from their Master, Jesus Christ. Salvation is the starting-point of your lifelong training as Jesus’ disciple. But we are not alone in this journey. Jesus is our instructor. Fellow brothers and sisters are our companions. We encourage each other so that we will receive God’s rewards. Today, we will go through some episodes in the lives of Jesus’ disciples and see our Lord trained them. Jesus teaches us in the same ways.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 門徒的呼召 The Calling of Disciples

First, let us consider the calling of disciples. Soon after the Lord set off His gospel mission, He called a few disciples. Mark 1:16-18 record: **16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.** Another name for Simon is Peter. Moments later, Jesus called another two brothers James and John. Altogether, Jesus called four fishermen to be His disciples. Jesus’ command was simple: “Follow me.” He did not tell the men where they would go, where they would stay or how they would make a living. They dropped their nets without hesitation and followed Jesus. It takes faith to respond to Jesus’ calling. Think about the time when you accepted Jesus. You still had a lot of questions about Christianity. You only had some fuzzy ideas of what Christian life is like. But you put your trust in Jesus with a simple faith. God gave you that faith to receive Him. As you walk with Jesus, your faith continues to grow, just like the disciples went through. Jesus told Peter and Andrew that they were called to be fishers of men. I wonder if they had any idea about how to catch people instead of fish. Jesus intended to use the skills and mindset those fishermen had for gospel work. They used to labor all night, they fought with

wind and waves and they must wait for the right timing to have a catch. Similarly, their future ministries required diligence, dedication and patience. Later, Jesus installed all twelve disciples in Mark 3:14-15 – **14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons.** Here we see the title “apostles,” which means delegates. Jesus sent out the twelve men after they had received some initial training. Jesus shared His power with them to cast out of demons. It proved that the gospel they proclaimed was from God. The disciples learned gradually through on-the-job training. Today, Jesus calls you from your specific field to be His disciple. You are a student, a scientist, an engineer, etc. But you are also a disciple sent to your work place. The Bible is your learning manual. You show people that you are a disciple of Jesus through your work. You reflects the character of Jesus as you interact with people. Jesus also empowers you to share the gospel with others. He gives you courage to overcome your shyness. He gives you wisdom and the right words to speak. Regardless of your job title, you are a professional disciple. You profess Jesus in your role.

2. 門徒的訓練 The Coaching of Disciples

After Jesus called His disciples, He gave them some coaching to develop their skills. We heard a saying that more is caught than taught in learning. Jesus coached His disciples through His words and through His life. He often used parables when He talked about the Kingdom of God. After Jesus finished sharing the Parable of the Sower, some audience thought that it was an interesting story. Only the disciples and a handful of people wondered about the meaning behind it. Mark 4:10 says: **And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.** They pondered on what they heard, then they asked questions. Little kids love to ask the “why” questions. They ask why the sky is blue, why their heart beats and why they have to do chores. They grow in knowledge when they get the right answers. We should maintain similar curiosity every time we read the Bible. First, we have to know what the text means. Then we go a step further and ask what the text means to us. We grow in our relationship with God when we apply objective truths to our life situations. Jesus did not only coach the disciples through His words. He also coached them through His life. For example, they observed how their Master treated people with compassion. He got close to lepers, even though the Law defines them as unclean. He received tax-collectors, although many people saw them as traitors. He welcomed the non-Jews and He did not reject them as outsiders of God’s covenant. Jesus came to serve all people. He told the disciples in Mark 10:44-45 – **44 “Whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”** In the context, James and John asked the Lord for permission to sit beside Him in glory. Jesus told His disciples that His Kingdom operated by a different value system. They should not aspire to become VIP. But they should seek opportunities to become servants. Jesus who was worthy of others’ service became a servant Himself. At the Last Supper, He even washed the disciples’ feet. It was supposed to be the job of the lowest servants. Jesus humbled Himself to the degree of dying for our sins in the most shameful way. Jesus also calls us to serve others. He may not ask you to wash others’ feet. But will you go into our church kitchen and wash dishes, clean bathrooms or pick up

trash from the floor? Will you serve senior folks and small kids by bringing food and drink to their tables? Those little things require not much skill but some love to do. Your service to complete strangers may open up a conversation about the gospel. At least, you show God's love to others. Jesus said that it is more blessed to serve than be served. We are His disciples if we follow His example and serve others.

3. 門徒的代價 The Cost of Discipleship

Next, we will look at the cost of discipleship. Salvation is a free grace. However, walking with the Lord has a huge cost. Look at Luke 14:25-27 – **25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”** Of course, Jesus did not ask the audience to cut off relationship with their loved ones. However, many Christians can testify that very often non-believing family members cause challenges to their faith. Issues like how we spend time and money, and how to honor ancestors may lead to conflict. Jesus said we must be prepared for the cost of following Him. He described it as bearing our own cross. At that time, a criminal shouldered a heavy beam to the execution site. That piece of wood would become part of the cross on which he would be nailed. What is our cross today? The same cross that we all have is ourselves. To follow Jesus, we must love ourselves less but love God more. How we spend our time and money reflect our priorities. Do you attend church only when you have free time? Do you put the academics and activities of your kids over their relationship with the Lord? Do you offer money soon after you receive your paycheck or do you wait till the end of year? Being Jesus' disciples mean we have to forsake our preference and choose what Jesus sees as the best. On that day the Lord tried to separate those who accompanied Him from those who followed Him. Some people chased after Jesus because they got free meals or other needs were met. Do you chase after Jesus or do you follow Him? Many people come to the church today because they have needs. Then they disappear when they get a job or a spouse, or their visa is approved. Jesus is not our consultant. He is our Lord. Then you may ask: why follow Jesus if the cost is so high? First, it is the only way Jesus set out for us. He said the way to eternal life is hard and the gate is narrow. Few people choose it. Second, Jesus walked the same path. He set an example of sacrifice for us. It may not cost your life to follow Jesus. But it may cost your face, your job or people's acceptance. Third, the reward is great, though not immediate. Temporary loss will not cancel out God's blessings. Fourth, Jesus is our help in trouble. He will give us strength when we suffer for following Him.

4. 門徒的倍增 The Copying of Disciples

Jesus' disciples became the pioneers for the gospel. Christians throughout the ages carried on the same mission. The baton is now in our hands. The Lord sends us out, just like He sent out the twelve men, to make copies of His disciples. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He gave the disciples an order in Matthew 28:18-20 – **18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples**

of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We call this command the Great Commission. The Father gave all the authority to His Son. Jesus uses that authority and asks us to make disciples of all nations. You are a disciple-maker if you are a Christian. Jesus asked us to do three things: to convert gospel friends to His disciples, to baptize Christians and to help them obey God’s Word. Jesus’ disciples carried out those commands. From the first church in Jerusalem, many churches were founded throughout the world. Due to many faithful disciples, we can hear the gospel and we have a Bible in our own language. Two thousand years later, now it is your turn to copy disciples. Jesus puts you in some circle of influence to share the gospel. You are fluent in your mother tongue. It is much easier for you to reach out to the people who speak the same language. Some of you join a leisure group for running, dancing or other activities. You may be a member of a professional association. Those are your mission fields Jesus sends you to. Make friends with people, tell them what you believe and invite them to church. With regard to baptism, you or may have family members who are Christians but have not been baptized. Pray for them and encourage them. Our next baptism will be in April around Easter. Jesus also ordered us to teach people to obey His Word. We have weekly Bible lessons for everyone. We have some excellent Bible teachers. We should not be content with passing out religious information. We must also aim for transformation of lives. Teachers should spare some time at the end of each lesson for participants to share how they can implement the lessons they learn. We can also share how we experience God in daily life each time we meet. That will encourage each other in our walk with the Lord. If we diligently obey Jesus’ command in these areas then we will grow in our relationship with the Lord. Personal growth will translate to spiritual and numerical growth of our church.

結論 CONCLUSION

Christians, believers and disciples refer to the same group of people. If Jesus is your Savior, then He is also your Lord. He signed you up for this life-time training of discipleship the moment you were saved. Just like no one can read the Bible or attend a church service on your behalf, nobody can substitute your role as Jesus’ disciple. It is a personal relationship between you and the Lord. Following Jesus is not an easy road, but it is a glorious one. You are never alone in this journey. Jesus who saved you also lives in you every moment of your life. He watches over you, provides for you, protects you from harm and always strengthens you. Discipleship is not a self-help course. Jesus will keep on shaping and molding us through His Word and through our life experience. He sends us out to make disciples from all walks of life. We must faithfully convey the same message. We do not just add people to our weekly attendance or the membership list. But we help people to become Jesus’ disciples. That is the command from our Lord and it is the mission of this church.

引言 INTRODUCTION

我們都朝著目標前進。你的老闆、老師或家人可能會給你分配一些任務。但在這些日常事務之外，必須有一些更高的目標。例如，你想考上夢想的大學，在工作場所升職，或者成為更好的家庭主婦和媽媽。這些願望激勵你每天起床。同樣的道理也適用於一個組織。學校、公司或教會可能都有它們的使命宣言。它定義方向、目標並激勵人們。我們教會的同工會去年修訂了我們的使命宣言。我們的使命是：建造門徒，全心地愛神，謙卑地彼此相愛並犧牲地愛世人。我們將用四個主日來思考這個聲明。我的禱告是我們能理解並記住這句話。下次，當人們問你你的教會做什麼時，你可以引用這句話來解釋。今天我們會討論成為耶穌門徒的紀律。我希望你今天離開時記住一件事：基督徒、信徒和門徒指的是同一群人。換句話說，每個基督徒都是耶穌的門徒。「門徒」在希臘文的意思是學生。門徒向他們的老師耶穌基督學習。救恩是你作為耶穌門徒一生訓練的起點。但在這段旅程中，我們並不孤單。耶穌是我們的導師，弟兄姐妹們是我們的伙伴。我們互相鼓勵，這樣我們就會一同得到神的獎賞。今天，我們將回顧耶穌門徒生活中的一些片段，看看主如何訓練他們。耶穌以同樣的方式教導我們。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 門徒的呼召 The Calling of Disciples

首先，讓我們思考門徒的呼召。主在開始傳福音工作後不久，便呼召了幾個門徒。馬可福音 1:16-18 記載：**16 耶穌順着加利利的海邊走，看見西門和西門的兄弟安得烈在海裏撒網；他們本是打魚的。17 耶穌對他們說：「來跟從我，我要叫你們得人如得魚一樣。」18 他們就立刻捨了網，跟從了他。**西門的另一個名字是彼得。耶穌稍後又呼召了另外兩兄弟雅各和約翰。如此，耶穌呼召了四個漁夫作祂的門徒。耶穌的命令很簡單：「來跟從我。」祂沒有告訴他們要去哪裡，在哪裡住，或者他們將如何謀生。他們毫不猶豫地撇下網，跟從了耶穌。回應耶穌的呼召需要信心。回想一下你接受耶穌的時候。你對基督信仰還有許多問題。你對到底如何做基督徒只有一些模糊的概念。但你以單純的信心接受耶穌。是神給了你接受祂的信心。當你與耶穌同行時，你的信心會繼續成長，就像門徒們所經歷的那樣。耶穌告訴彼得和安得烈，他們要成為得人的漁夫。我懷疑他們是否知道如何抓人而不是抓魚。耶穌打算使用這些漁夫的技能 and 心態來從事福音工作。他們常常通宵勞動，與風浪搏鬥，並且要等待適合的

時機才能有所收穫。同樣，他們未來的事工需要勤奮、專心和忍耐。後來，耶穌在馬可福音 3:14-15 中安排了所有十二個門徒：**14 他就設立十二個人，要他們常和自己同在，也要差他們去傳道，15 並給他們權柄趕鬼。**在這裡我們看到「使徒」這個稱號，意思是代表。他們十二個人接受初步訓練後，耶穌就派他們出去。耶穌與他們分享趕鬼的能力，這證明他們所傳的福音是從神來的。他們通過在職培訓來學習事奉。今天，耶穌從你的領域中呼召你成為祂的門徒。你是個學生、科學家、工程師等。但你也是被派到工作場所的門徒。聖經是你的學習手冊。你通過你的職業向人們表明你是耶穌的門徒。當你與人接觸時，你反映出耶穌的品格。耶穌也賜給你與別人分享福音的能力。祂給你勇氣克服害羞，祂給你智慧和正確的話語。不管你的職位是什麼，你都是耶穌的門徒，在你的角色中宣揚耶穌。

2. 門徒的訓練 The Coaching of Disciples

耶穌呼召祂的門徒之後，便給了他們一些訓練來發展他們的技能。我們都聽過一種說法，身教比言教更有效。耶穌通過祂的話語和祂的生命來訓練門徒。當耶穌談到神的國時，祂經常使用比喻。耶穌講完撒種的比喻後，有些聽眾認為那是一個有趣的故事。只有祂的門徒和少數人想要明白其中的含義。馬可福音 4:10 說：**無人的時候，跟隨耶穌的人和十二個門徒問他這比喻的意思。**他們思考所聽到的內容，然後提出問題。小孩子喜歡問「為什麼」的問題。他們問為什麼天空是藍色的，為什麼他們的心在跳動以及為什麼他們必須做家務。當他們得到正確的答案時，他們的知識就會增長。每次閱讀聖經時，我們都應該保持同樣的好奇心。首先，我們要知道經文的意思。然後我們進一步問經文對我們的意義。當我們將客觀的真理應用到日常生活中時，我們與神的關係就會增長。耶穌不僅通過祂的話來訓練門徒，祂也用祂的生命訓練他們。例如，他們觀察到他們的老師如何以恩慈待人。祂靠近麻風病人，雖然律法將他們定義為不潔。祂接待稅吏，儘管許多人認為他們是叛徒。祂歡迎非猶太人，並沒有看他們為神盟約的局外人。耶穌也服事眾人。祂在馬可福音 10:44-45 中告訴門徒：**44 「在你們中間，誰願為首，就必作眾人的僕人。45 因為人子來，並不是要受人的服事，乃是要服事人，並且要捨命作多人的贖價。」**在上下文中，雅各和約翰請求主允許他們在榮耀中坐在祂兩旁。耶穌告訴祂的門徒，祂的國度是以不同的價值觀念運作的。他們不應該渴望成為貴賓，他們應該尋找機會成為僕人。耶穌配得別人的服事，但是祂甘願成為僕人。在最後的晚餐上，祂甚至為門徒們洗腳。這應該是最卑微僕人的工作。耶穌謙卑自己，以最羞辱的方式為我們的罪而死。耶穌也呼召我們為他人服務。祂可能不會要求你為別人洗腳，但是你願意去廚房洗碗、打掃廁所或撿起地上的垃圾嗎？你願意為長輩和小孩將食物和飲料拿到他們的桌上嗎？這些小事不需要太多技巧，但是需要

愛心。你為陌生人服務時可能會開啟福音的對話。至少，你向別人展示了神的愛。耶穌說，施予服務比接受服務更為有福。如果我們效法耶穌的榜樣服事人，我們便是祂的門徒了。

3. 門徒的代價 The Cost of Discipleship

接下來，我們來看看作門徒的代價。救恩是白白的恩典。然而，跟隨主卻要付出很大的代價。請看路加福音 14:25-27：**25 有極多的人和耶穌同行。他轉過來對他們說：26「人到我這裏來，若不愛我勝過愛自己的父母、妻子、兒女、弟兄、姊妹，和自己的性命，就不能作我的門徒。27 凡不背着自己十字架跟從我的，也不能作我的門徒。」**當然，耶穌並不是要求聽眾與家人斷絕關係。然而，許多基督徒可以見證，不信主的家人常常對他們的信仰造成挑戰。如何使用時間和金錢，以及如何紀念祖先等事情可能會導致衝突。耶穌說我們必須準備付代價來跟隨祂。祂形容為背負自己的十字架。當時，一名罪犯扛著一根木頭來到刑場。那根木頭將成為釘他的十字架的一部分。今天我們的十字架是什麼？我們所有人都有的同一個十字架就是我們自己。要跟隨耶穌，我們必須少愛自己，多愛神。我們如何使用時間和金錢反映出我們的優先次序。你是不是等到有空的時候才來教會聚會？你是否將孩子的學業和活動放在他們與主的關係之上？你是在拿到薪水後馬上奉獻還是等到年底才做？成為耶穌的門徒意味著我們必須放下自己的喜好，選擇耶穌認為最好的。在那一天，主把那些追祂的人與那些跟隨祂的人分開。有些人追著耶穌是因為他們吃到免費餐或是其他需要得到滿足。今天你是追耶穌還是跟耶穌？很多人來教會是因為他們有需要。然而，當他們找到工作或配偶，或是拿到身份時，他們就消失了。耶穌不是我們的顧問，祂要成為我們的主人。那麼你也許會問：既然代價那麼大，為什麼要跟隨耶穌呢？首先，這是耶穌為我們設立的唯一道路。祂說永生的路是艱難的，門是窄的，選擇它的人也是少數的。第二，耶穌走了同樣的路，祂為我們樹立了犧牲的榜樣。跟隨耶穌可能不需要付出你的生命，但是你可能失去面子、工作或是別人的認同。第三，作門徒的回報是豐厚的，雖然不是立時的。暫時的損失不會抵消神的祝福。第四，耶穌是我們患難中的幫助。當我們因跟隨祂而受苦時，祂會加添我們力量。

4. 門徒的倍增 The Copying of Disciples

耶穌的門徒成了福音的先鋒。歷世歷代的基督徒都肩負著同樣的使命。現在棒子交在我們的手中。主差遣我們，就像祂差遣十二個人一樣，去倍增祂的門徒。耶穌回到天上之前，祂在馬太福音 28:18-20 中給門徒一個命令：**18 耶穌進前來，對他們說：「天上地下所有的權柄都賜給我了。19 所以，你們要去，使**

萬民作我的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗。20 凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。」我們稱這個命令為大使命。天父把所有的權柄都給了祂的兒子。耶穌使用同樣的權柄要求我們使萬民作祂的門徒。如果你是基督徒，你就是建立門徒的人。耶穌要求我們做三件事：使福音朋友轉變為祂的門徒，為基督徒施行浸禮，並幫助他們遵守神的話語。耶穌的門徒依循這些命令。從耶路撒冷的第一所教會開始，世界各地建立了許多教會。由於有許多忠心的門徒，我們可以聽到福音，我們也有了自己語言的聖經。兩千年後，現在輪到你倍增門徒了。耶穌把你放在一些圈子裡來分享福音。你也許會說特別的方言。與說相同語言的人交流對你來說是容易的事。有些人參加跑步、跳舞或其他活動。你可能是專業協會的成員。這些就是耶穌派你去宣教的工場。你可以與別人交朋友，告訴他們你的信仰，並邀請他們來教會。有關浸禮，你的家人可能已經信主但仍未受浸。為他們禱告並鼓勵他們。我們下一次的浸禮將安排在四月復活節期間舉行。耶穌還吩咐我們教導人們遵守祂的話。我們每週安排聖經課，我們也有一些優秀的教師。我們不應滿足於傳遞宗教信息，我們的目標應該是生命的改變。老師應該在課堂結束時留出一些時間讓學員分享如何實踐所學到的真理。我們也可以在每次聚會時分享我們在日常生活中如何經歷神。這樣我們便能彼此激勵，一起與主同行。如果我們在這些方面努力遵守耶穌的命令，那麼我們與主的關係就會增長。個人成長將轉化為我們教會屬靈和人數上的增長。

結論 CONCLUSION

基督徒、信徒和門徒指的是同一群人。如果耶穌是你的救主，那麼祂也是你生命的主。在你得救的那一刻，祂就召募你參與這個終生的門徒訓練。就像沒有人可以代替你閱讀聖經或參加教會聚會一樣，沒有人可以代替你成為耶穌的門徒。這是你和主之間的個人關係。跟隨耶穌不是一條容易的路，但卻是一條榮耀的路。在這段旅程中，你永遠不會孤單。拯救你的耶穌也活在你生命中的每時每刻。祂看顧著你，供應你，保護你免受傷害，並常常給你力量。門徒訓練不是自學課程。耶穌會繼續通過祂的話語和我們的經歷來塑造我們。祂差遣我們出去，使各處的人成為門徒。我們必須忠實地傳達同樣的信息。我們不只是增加每週的出席人數或會員名單，我們是幫助別人成為耶穌的門徒。這是我們主的命令，也是這個教會的使命。