

Discipleship and Anglicanism Talk #2

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Conference and Retreat Theme: Desiring to fully serve Him (**Here am I send me**, Isaiah 6: 8) by desiring to truly “**know Him**” (Phil 3:10).

Aim: to rekindle in us the renewed desire to fully serve the Lord (with profound dedication like Isaiah), and to desire to continually “**know Him**” in a deeper, experiential way (like Paul).

Video: About Holiness –Pastor John (a Fuller Theological Seminary grad) was a powerful and popular preacher in the California area, but one day as he was preaching, the Lord convicted him that though he (the Lord) has been using him greatly to preach, teach and do miracles, he (John) was not ready for Jesus appearing because his heart was full of impure and unholy thoughts. The Lord reminded Pastor John that it is not about being a mighty preacher and miracle worker; it is about holiness, because without holiness, no one will see God.

We should, therefore, fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Holy one whom our hearts desire.

Song: [Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring](#)

1. Jesu, joy of man's desiring, Holy wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring Soar to uncreated light.

2. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown, Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6OgZCCoXWc> (Cantata BWV 147) by [Johann Sebastian Bach](#) in 1716 and 1723.

Roots of Anglican Christianity

Rooted in: First century church's Faith and practice

Developed in: Church of England's post-Reformation expansion

Especially through: Thomas Cranmer's provision of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

While the monk, Martin Luther, championed the Reformation movement, by nailing his 95 Theses to the door of a church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, it was Thomas Cranmer who provided the road for the journey to continue by his provision of an effective missionary and discipleship tool, *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer was:

1. Most accessible for its time.

2. Useful for the common man because of its simple language
3. The go-to resource for personal devotion for countless believers around the world.
4. A significant detour from the structured formality of the Mass, because of Cranmer's emphasis on Scripture as the foundation for the weekly service
5. A standard resource among Protestants.
6. Unique because it was written in English, not Latin which few of the common people understood.

Others also such as Tyndale, The Wesleys, etc. helped the post-Reformation expansion.

Driven by a missionary focus, Anglicanism has been about the work of making disciples for over 500 years.

Anglican Global missionary and Discipleship Efforts: Largely through Missionary Societies and para church groups (include Mothers Union):

Question: What are some Anglican missionary, and discipleship minded groups that you are familiar with?

Example: The Church Missionary Society (CMS). Following is a brief consideration of the result of the CMS work in Nigeria.

Growth of Anglicanism in Nigeria:

In 1842 Henry Townsend of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) from Freetown Sierra Leone established the first mission of the Church of England in Badagry (near Lagos). The efforts of Rev Henry Townsend and The Rev Samuel Ajayi Crowther (a Yoruba ex-slave) resulted in the birth of Anglicanism in Nigeria on December 25, 1842 in Abeokuta.

In 1846, the CMS Yoruba mission was consolidated through the efforts of The Rev S. Ajayi Crowther, and The Rev Townsend in the company of Rev Golmer and Mr. Philips.

In 1857, The Rev. Samuel Ajayi Crowther led the founding of a formidable native pastorate, the CMS Niger Mission in Onitsha and environs.

In 1864 the Reverend Crowther was elected Bishop of the Niger.

In 1919 Lagos became a diocese of its own.

Growth of Anglicanism in Nigeria

Today it is estimated that 40% of Anglicans world-wide are in Nigeria.

Second to the Church of England, the Anglican Church in Nigeria, is the largest province in the world-wide Anglican Communion as measured by baptized membership.

The Anglican Church of Nigeria is also the fastest growing body within the Anglican Communion. It could also be regarded as the largest single congregation in Nigeria.

The current membership of the Anglican Church in Nigeria is estimated at about 20 million (and growing) out of a total Nigerian population of about 180 million. The church of Nigeria, with its

14 Ecclesiastical Provinces and 4 Missions (which we are part of), has rapidly increased the number of its dioceses and bishops from 91 in 2002 to 164 in 2017.

The administrative headquarters are located in the Nigerian Capital City, Abuja. Its current Primate is Archbishop Nicholas Okoh.

Anglicanism's Discipleship Focus and Expansion

As a result of its missionary and discipleship focus, Anglicanism has expanded today into a global church.

As a worldwide family of churches, the Anglican Communion has more than 80 million adherents in 39 Provinces spreading across 161 countries.

Located on every continent, Anglicans speak many languages and come from different races and cultures. Although the churches are autonomous, they are also uniquely unified through their history, their theology, and their liturgy (which ties back to Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer*).

"Today the Anglican Communion is the third largest Christian body in the world,

The fastest growing segments of the fellowship are in The Global South, situated mainly in Africa and Southeast Asia.

There is a new strong, growing, conservative Anglican presence in North America today of which we are a part.

What do Anglican disciples and disciplers believe, learn and teach?

God-

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Bible –

The 66 Canonical books of old and new testaments

Tradition

Historic Christian practices and teachings, Catechism

Sacraments

Baptism

Holy Communion

Historic Formularies

The Creed – Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed

39 Articles of religion

Who Is A Christian Disciple?

One who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is dedicated to living in obedience to His Word (as found in Scripture).

Being a Disciple is what the very core of the way of life of a Christian here and now should be. Being a Disciple is at the very heart of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ which says: "*So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*" (Matthew 28:19 God's Word Translation). In other words, becoming a disciple is the true meaning of what being saved and becoming a Christian really is all about.

While the word Christian appears only 3 times in the New Testament, disciple occurs 269 times in the N.T. Yet, the word disciple has been so grossly neglected by Christians that it has been referred to as the Great Omission (Fink, 2016).

What is Discipleship?

Discipleship is the act of learning to live out one's faith, and the church is called to mentor and guide new believers in the journey of discipleship.

Discipleship is synonymous with the pathway toward Christian maturity. A Christian who wants to become like Christ in thought, word, actions and choices, can only do that through the process of discipleship. As Christians, discipleship is the highest calling and the highest purpose to which we can give ourselves. A formal discipleship process is a great enhancer of genuine spiritual transformation for anyone who makes a profession of faith in Christ.

Just like the journey of life is a marathon, a life-long process, so discipleship is a life-long process. It is not just a course, a training program, or religious event that one can get into temporarily, or complete in a specific period of time. Discipleship is an integral part of the life-style of a believer in Christ from the very beginning of their faith journey to the very end of their lives.

Discipleship in Christ's Ministry

The bulk of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry revolved around the making of disciples. It is helpful, then, to reflect on how Jesus made disciples.

1. First, Jesus enlisted or recruited disciples. He called, chose or accepted as disciples people from every background, all works of life: Fishermen, tax collectors

Discipleship in Christ's Ministry

2. Second, he taught his disciples. In doing this he used various kinds of teaching techniques and methods such as the following:

a. He taught like a Hebrew. The Hebraic way of thinking prefers word pictures, stories, poetry, imagery and symbolism unlike the Western (or Greek) way of thinking which prefers words, definitions, outlines, lists, and bullet points. A Jewish Rabbi tells a story to speak to the heart first, and then to the head second. On the other hand, the traditional Western way of thinking is to speak to the head first and heart second. For example as a non-Jewish Clergy or cleric, if I were to ask you the question: "What is God?" most likely your answer would be something like: "God is love, ...holy, God is wise, God is omnipotent, ...present, omniscient, etc. An orthodox Jewish cleric, disciple or person would most likely respond to the same question quite differently by saying that God is wholesome bread; God is a mighty rock; God is living water, etc.

For example, consider the parables of the sower and the Good Samaritan.

b. He taught using questions. He constantly answered questions with questions. Why? The goal of a Rabbi was not just to impart knowledge to his disciples, but to train disciples (or Talmidim) who would become who their master was. See Lk 11:1ff; 12:41ff; 18:18ff; 24:13ff.

c. He emphasized obedience to God's word. As a Hebrew, Jesus in his teaching emphasized the importance of obeying God's word the (TaNaK). That is, the Torah (the law), the Navi'im (Prophets), and the Ketuvim (the Writings).

3. Third, he modeled what he wanted his disciples to learn and become. As Robby Gallaty (2015) rightly observed, "disciples lived, ate, traveled, listened, and studied under their rabbi" (p. 70). While Jesus taught, his disciples watched him. His teaching touched on a wide array of important topics and issues pertaining to the Kingdom. For example, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught such kingdom truths as:

- i. God centered attitudes (Matthew 5: 3-5)
- ii. Inward attitudes (Matthew 5: 6-8)
- iii. External attitudes (Matthew 5: 9-11)

His disciples watched him when he healed the lame, cleansed the lepers, made the blind see, made the deaf hear, and cure those who had various (**diverse**) diseases (See Mk 1; Matthew 4: 24; Jn 9).

4. Fourth, Jesus taught his disciples by allowing them to assist him in ministry. E.g., during the feeding of the 5,000, and the feeding of the 4,000 Jesus enlisted their help (John 6: 1-13).

5. Fifth, Jesus taught his disciples by allowing them to do the ministry themselves, with and without Jesus's assistance. E.g., after the transfiguration when the disciples were not able to cast out a demon from a possessed boy, Jesus stepped in and made the boy whole by casting out the demon himself (Mark 9: 1-29). Then when Jesus sent them out by themselves, they came back saying: "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name" (Luke 10: 17).

6. Sixth, Jesus did not discard his disciples when they denied and deserted him. Despite the disappointing behavior and failures of the disciples during his agony, arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial, Jesus prayed for them, kept them, forgave them, revealed himself to them after his resurrection. He empowered them, and commissioned them to go into all the world and make disciples.

What does the "greater works" of John 14:12 mean? It meant that the scope of the disciples' ministry would be far-reaching. The disciples would do greater works in terms of quantity, not quality. The essence of discipleship is to expand the ministry of Jesus!

What do we learn from Discipleship in Christ's Ministry?

1. Enlist or recruit disciples

2. Teach your disciples; in doing this, use various kinds of teaching techniques and methods.

3. Teach like a Hebrew. Try using word pictures, stories, poetry, imagery and symbolism. Listen well.

4. Use questions a lot

5. Emphasize obedience to God's word

6. Modeled what you want your disciple/s to learn and become

7. Give your disciple/s guided practice. Allow them to assist you in ministry

8. Give your disciple/s independent practice. Allow them to do the ministry themselves, with and without your assistance. Then you assess/provide feedback

9. Do not discard your disciples when (or if) they fail you. Demonstrate maturity, pray for them, forgive them. Empower them, and commission them to go and duplicate or multiply what you have done with them.

How to be an Effective Discipler:

1. Focus on others. Jesus called his disciples to be not holy monks, but "Fishers of men".

2. Focus on Fishing. Be very intentional in discipling. When Jesus called his first disciples, they were casting their nets and mending their nets. It was a repetitive, laborious process without guarantees of catching anything. Yet, they persisted in fishing.

3. Focus on fixing your nets. A torn net is useless to a fisherman. Fix any holes that exist in your basic communication, relational, bible knowledge or professional skills. God can use any of us in miraculous ways if we prepare ourselves well in any area of life he has called us or equipped us. **Illustration:** The Astrophysicist who has been working hard to integrate his faith into his field. God allowed a lot of "coincidences" to happen where he ran into Agnostics, and Atheists who he witnessed to and led to faith in Christ.

4. Focus on full commitment to the call to discipleship.

Jesus called the early disciples to follow him without hesitation. They dropped everything and followed him. The task of disciple making is not for a hand-full of "full-time" ministers. The Great Commission is a task Jesus gave to all believers.

Why is Full Commitment to Discipleship So Important Today?

- a. While Christ's disciples knew Scripture exceedingly well and had much of it memorized, 81% of Christians today don't read their Bibles regularly and are largely biblically illiterate.
- b. Christ's disciples who were common, uneducated fishers of men took the gospel to the ends of the earth. In contrast, 61% of Christians today haven't even shared their faith in the last six months.
- c. Christ's disciples prayed extensively, the average Christian today prays somewhere between 1-7 minutes a day.
- d. Christ and the Apostles made discipleship a core part of their ministries. 81 % of pastors have no regular discipleship program for mentoring their people.

These staggering differences in the value Christ and the Apostles gave to discipleship versus the church and Christians today **warrants our urgent, full commitment to the call to discipleship.**

5. Focus on generational discipleship. 2 Tim 2: 1-7. [*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,* ² *and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.* ³ *Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.* ⁴ *No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.* ⁵ *An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.* ⁶ *It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.* ⁷ *Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*]

Christ ->to Paul, Paul ->to Timothy, Timothy -> to Faithful men, Faithful men -> to others, others -> who will in turn pass the teaching on (more than four generations). While there is room for one-on-one discipleship, **Generational discipleship is best done in small groups. Have you heard of D-groups? In 2 Tim 2:2 we see that Paul discipled in the presence of many witnesses (disciples).** ² *and what you have heard from me in the presence of **many witnesses** entrust to faithful **men**, who will be able to teach **others** also* (all **plural**).

Both Jesus and Paul engaged in **generational discipleship**, and they did disciple in groups.

Consider investing a minimum of 12 to 18 months into your discipleship group.

6. Focus your discipleship efforts on believers; not unbelievers. You can't disciple an unbeliever. **Why? What was the essence of discipleship in the first century? It was commitment to study under a rabbi. To commit to a rabbi, you must first know him, walk with him. So, discipleship is not just about learning facts, it involves change in attitude, life style and commitment. What does the unbeliever need? Since the goal of all discipleship is**

conformity to the image of Christ, the unbeliever needs first to know Christ as the Savior and Lord.

7. Focus on your Authority, not on your doubts. Your discipleship efforts and service are in the Authority of Christ. (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV) ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

8. Focus on your discipleship process. Do you have a D-process? Develop a process if you do not have one. Though we are in a McChristian culture, whatever your process, do not make it a fast-food process: plan on investing a minimum of 12 to 18 months into your discipleship group.

9. Focus on your plan. For example, a plan such as: **Remember, Reflect, Retell, and Repeat.**
Remember: God consistently asks the Israelites to remember what he has done for them. Eg, Exod. 13: 3; Exod. 20: 8; Deut 5:15; Josh 1: 13. Intentional remembering induces reflection.

Reflect: Meditate on God’s precepts and commands. Savor his presence and blessings. **Psalm 8:** 1-6 (NKJV) O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens! ² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants. You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. ³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet

Retell: Erect memorials (see Josh 4: 6-7). Keep records of Gods faithfulness. Keep records of testimonies and answered prayers. Such records help to fortify our faith during the difficult seasons of life, and become platforms for praise.

Repeat: Repetition is still an important method of learning. Repetition has actually been described as “the mother of all learning” Why? A rabbi once said: “A person who repeats his lesson 100 times is not as good as one who repeats his lesson 101” (Gallaty p.135). The Shema (Deut 6: 4-9) which Jews repeat daily is God’s special parental discipleship instructional resource for the Jews. It includes all four elements in this discipleship process: **Remember, Reflect, Retell, and Repeat.**

An Anglican Perspective on Discipleship

1. Teaching – Jesus said to teach others “to obey all that I have commanded you.” Not just teach but teach them to obey all his commands. So the goals of discipling others are:

a. to Know the Faith, b. to Live the Faith, and c. to Explain the Faith (to others).

Teach the Bible: the Bible is the **Primary** discipleship book. We are transformed through the renewing of our minds as we search the Scriptures. In addition to teaching the bible, recommend Christian books to read (books on theoretical and practical theology)

2. Belief/Doctrine: You can use the Nicene and Apostles Creeds as guides. But the Bible is the book for doctrinal teaching, starting with God, creation, the Fall, Sin, the Gospel, etc. What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news from God about his Son which states that as a result of Jesus Christ's perfect obedience, His atoning death on the cross, and His triumphant resurrection from the dead, there is forgiveness of sin, salvation from divine wrath and an eternal hell, eternal life, justification, and the gifts of righteousness, the Holy Spirit, adoption into God's family, and glorification for anyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

3. Prayer: Use the Lord's Prayer as a guide in teaching others to pray, covering topics such as the Motivation for Prayer; Content & Method of Prayer - ACTS: Adoration, Confession/self-examination, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (petition and intercession)

4. Christian Behavior/Character: The Ten Commandments and Fruit of the Spirit (Exodus 20; Colossians 3-4; Galatians 5-6; Ephesians 4-6). Address topics such as temptations, sex, suffering, trials and persecution, commitment, and endurance in the Christian life. Christianity is a Cross-shaped life! "Twice Paul asked his protégé Titus to remind believers to always be ready to do good works (Titus 3:1, 8; Dave Branon). Although we are saved by God's mercy and grace and not by what we do (Titus 3:4-7), our works are the evidence of our faith. "God ... created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Eph 2:8-10 NLT).

5.The Church (its Nature, Functions, Sacraments, Ministry & Mission):

-Stewardship (giving as a command and act of gratitude): money, time, and abilities for God

-Ministry as service

-Teaching the content and method of evangelism

6.Marriage and Family Life

7.The role of the Believer as a political citizen

8. Spiritual Disciplines: Silence, Solitude, Simplicity, Study, Meditation, Fasting, Fighting as a Christian soldier, etc. –

Hymn: Stand up, Stand up for Jesus (George Duffield, Jr)

1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.
2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this His glorious day.
Ye that are brave now serve Him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.
3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song.
To those who vanquish evil a crown of life shall be;
They with the King of Glory shall reign eternally

(Words: George Duffield, Jr., 1858. Music: George J. Webb, 1830)

Remember, you are the light of the world; you are the salt of the earth...men do not light a candle and hide it, it is put on a stand to give light to all the house (world!). Your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father (Mathew 5: 13 – 16)

Know Your Bible!

Jesus is the central character in the Bible— The Old Testament predicts His coming and sets the stage for His entrance into the world. The New Testament describes His coming, His work to bring salvation to our sinful world, and His return as the final judge and eternal King. Jesus is more than a historical figure. He is God in the flesh, and His coming was the most important event in the history of the world. God Himself became a man in order to give us a clear, understandable picture of who He is. What is God like? He is like Jesus; Jesus is God in human form (John 1:14,14:9).

Why should we Read and Study the Bible?

We should read and study the Bible because it is God's Word to us. The Bible is literally "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). In other words, it is God's very words to us. There are so many questions that philosophers have asked that God answers for us in the bible; such as:

What is the purpose to life? Where did I come from? Is there life after death? How do I get to heaven? Why is the world full of evil? Why do I struggle to do good?

In addition to these "big" questions, the Bible gives much practical advice in areas such as: What do I look for in a mate? How can I have a successful marriage? How can I be a good friend? How can I be a good parent? What is success and how do I achieve it? How can I change? What really matters in life? How can I live so that I do not look back with regret? How can I handle the unfair circumstances and bad events of life victoriously?

We should read and study the Bible because there is so much false teaching. The Bible gives us the measuring stick by which we can distinguish truth from error. It tells us what God is like. To have a wrong impression of God is to worship an idol or false god. We are worshiping something that He is not. The Bible tells us how one truly gets to heaven, and it is not by being good or by being baptized, confirmed or by anything else we do (John 14:6; Ephesians 2:1-10; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-18, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-13). Along this line, God's Word shows us just how much God loves us (Romans 5:6-8; John 3:16). And it is in learning this that we are drawn to love Him in return (1 John 4:19).

What is the proper way to study the Bible?

Discuss practical ways to read the Bible (E.g., suggest specific books of the Bible, read the Bible together; start with the New Testament such as the gospels, Romans or Acts, read 1 or 2 chapters a day. Begin with a prayer for illumination; pay attention to hermeneutics, grammar, literary context, and structure. So, the following is a brief guide on the proper way to study the bible:

First, through prayer and humility, we must ask God and trust him to give us understanding. **Second**, always study Scripture in its context, recognizing that the Bible explains itself.

Third, we should respect the efforts of other Christians, past and present, who have also sought to properly study the Bible. Remember, God is the author of the Bible, and He wants us to understand it. Yet, not every verse is very clear. Difficulties in understanding a passage may arise when customs, idioms, word meanings are lost. For example, not everyone is agreed on the interpretation of a passage like Hebrews 6:1-9. So, use reliable, bible study guides and commentaries from evangelical sources.

Fourth, take the historical context into consideration. For example, when Martha complained to Jesus (in Luke chapter 10) that her sister Mary was not helping her with the hospitality services to Jesus, Martha's complaint should be understood against the background of the historical context and setting of the event. Historically and culturally at this time the woman's place was in the kitchen. So naturally Martha expected her sister Mary to do the "right" thing by helping to cook and serve! (See Luke 10:38-40; John 12:1, 2.)

Fifth, read the bible to find out the meaning of the passage, instead of attributing to the text a meaning previously conceived from some bias, or prejudice or to justify a doctrinal position. For example, the Mormons teach the doctrine of the baptism for the dead out of 1 Corinthians 15:29 where Paul was stressing the reality of resurrection.

Sixth, rely on the **Holy Spirit's help**. He is God. He is also the Spirit of truth; and is very capable of giving man an understanding of what the word says and means. The **Holy Spirit** will

do this in one way or another especially to those whose truly desire to know and to obey the truth obey.

Thus, the author of the Word becomes also its teacher and interpreter. Additionally, he becomes the personal conductor and guide into its truth. John 14:26 says: "the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall *teach* you all things." And in John 16:13 Jesus said: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will *guide* you into all the truth."