

March 8th, 2026

Becoming Like Jesus
Philippians 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
Philippians 2:5–8 (NIV)

_____ *in Jesus is different than* _____ *Jesus –*
and following Jesus is about _____ *Jesus.*
Matt 9:9; 19:21; Mark 1:16, 19; John 12:26

Following Jesus is more than believing the right things or being part of the right group. It's a lifelong journey of being shaped by Jesus.

What Did It Mean to Follow Jesus in the First Century?

- In the Jewish world of Jesus' day, discipleship was a well-understood _____.
- The highest compliment you could give a disciple was that, over time, they began to _____ their rabbi.

Discipleship isn't just knowing things about God; it's about arranging your life so that God's life begins to _____.

Jesus is the _____ not just the teacher. (Php 2:5-8)

You don't drift into Christlikeness – you drift into whatever your _____.

Discipleship is not primarily about information. It's about _____ – about becoming like Jesus over time into the likeness of Jesus.

Sunridge Discipleship Value #1: *We believe a disciple loves God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength – and their neighbor as themselves.* (Matt 22:37-40)

The mindset of Christ always leads to love for God and neighbor – anything else is being shaped by _____.

A Rabbinic Disciple Had Three Goals:

1. To _____ your rabbi.
2. To _____ your rabbi.
3. _____ what your rabbi did.

Before we ask, “Who are we becoming like?” We should ask, “_____ is _____ me?”

Everyone is being _____ – just not always by Jesus.

Following Jesus always leads to this question: What does it look like to become like him _____?

The invitation to follow Jesus in the first century is the same today – _____.

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

Have you ever been lost—on a trip, a hike, or even just driving somewhere—and realized later you were on the wrong path? What tipped you off that something wasn't right? How did it feel in the moment?

In the message, Britt said that believing in Jesus is different than following Jesus—and following Jesus is about becoming like Jesus. When you hear that distinction, what resonates with you? Where do you think Christians (including us) most often confuse belief with discipleship?

The sermon emphasized: “You don't drift into Christlikeness—you drift into whatever your culture rewards.”What are some of the strongest forces shaping people today (media, work, politics, social pressure, pace of life)? Which of those do you feel most strongly in your own life right now?

Philippians 2 describes Jesus' mindset as humility, self-giving love, and service rather than grasping for power. Which part of Jesus' mindset do you find most challenging to live out? Why do you think that particular area is difficult in our current culture?

The message ended with this question: “What does it look like to become like Jesus right where I am?” In your current season of life (work, family, relationships), what might becoming like Jesus look like practically?



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***Believing in Jesus is different than following Jesus –
and following Jesus is about becoming like Jesus.***
Matt 9:9; 19:21; Mark 1:16, 19; John 12:26

Following Jesus is more than believing the right things or being part of the right group. It's a lifelong journey of being shaped by Jesus.

What Did It Mean to Follow Jesus in the First Century?

- In the Jewish world of Jesus' day, discipleship was a well-understood way of life.
- The highest compliment you could give a disciple was that, over time, they began to sound like their rabbi.

Discipleship isn't just knowing things about God; it's about arranging your life so that God's life begins to shape yours.

Jesus is the pattern, not just the teacher. (Php 2:5-8)

You don't drift into Christlikeness – you drift into whatever your culture rewards.

Discipleship is not primarily about information. It's about formation – about becoming like Jesus over time into the likeness of Jesus.

Sunridge Discipleship Value #1: *We believe a disciple loves God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength – and their neighbor as themselves.* (Matt 22:37-40)

The mindset of Christ always leads to love for God and neighbor – anything else is being shaped by another story.

A Rabbinic Disciple Had Three Goals:

1. To be with your rabbi.
2. To become like your rabbi.
3. Do what your rabbi did.

Before we ask, “Who are we becoming like?” We should ask, “Who is shaping me?”

Everyone is being disciplined – just not always by Jesus.

Following Jesus always leads to this question: What does it look like to become like him right where I am?

The invitation to follow Jesus in the first century is the same today – to become like him.

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