



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

Paul in Ephesus

19 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ²And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

⁸And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

[READ THE TEXT]

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”
People – “Thanks be to God.”

[PRAY]

[ILLUSTRATION]

The almost perfect Chocolate Cake...

Lesson Learned...

It doesn’t matter how good your cookware is, how expensive your mixer was, or how elaborate your oven can be.

It doesn’t matter if you have the best baking flour with a high protein count that makes baked goods chewy and sturdy.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

It doesn't matter if you have the best butter with a high milk fat content that gives those flaky and flavorful layers in your baking.

It doesn't matter on the clarity of the oil or the freshness of the eggs that doesn't negate the work of the flavor components your mixing in nor for that matter the quality of the chocolate.

IF you don't have WATER, plain old water from the sink, that has minerals, the yeast can't feed and rise, and the mix can't survive the furnace of the baking process and will be destroyed.

[INTRO]

Problem...

It's the same for the Christian life, you have all the right ingredients and components to make something great but if you are missing the most important ingredient for **discipleship**, that person won't make it.

1st The Basic Ingredient in Discipleship.

The term disciple is the key word we are looking for in the text today, it says Paul found some in Ephesus there in v.1. *mathētēs* to be a student and a follower of a person by which one not only learns from that teacher but they emulate them. In the NT this word is exclusively used to talk about those who follow Jesus, and those who were truly Jesus' followers were those attempting to emulate doing what He did (both a learner and a doer). Here in v.1 Luke uses the same word to describe a group of men, who were practicing 1st being disciples of the Messiah, being that they were once students of John the Baptist, but not of Jesus for they didn't know who the Messiah was yet. They were being obedient to the call of Faith, it was just that all the ingredients to their faith, their Christology, had not been added yet. Their witness for God, their power for ministry, their ability to live righteous lives was all lacking because they were missing the most important ingredient, the knowledge and privilege of knowing Jesus Christ.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

You see you can have the biggest, newest, prettiest, and most appealing of facilities, by which people can come and gather in, and it cannot guarantee the finish product of a disciple.

You can have the best teachers, the best programs, and top line resources, but that is not a guarantee you will be a disciple of Christ.

If you don't have the most important ingredient for discipleship, you will miss it, and you will not have what you need to grow and become mature. Now what is that most important ingredient?

John 4:13-14 ESV

¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

If you have not discovered how to quench your own thirst with a true **knowledge of Christ - THE WATER**, who He is, what he does, and what that means for you, you cannot be a disciple. Experiencing Jesus, our Lord, in this matter means you must go from just a head knowledge of Him to a heart knowledge, it means you put your trust in Him and in Him alone. Does your life display a life saving Trust in Jesus, do you rely on His life saving water?

MAIN POINT:

Believing/Trusting in Jesus is essential for Successful Discipleship.

What does this Water of Life have in it that is so essential for our lives? Jesus as the water of life, has the minerals that we have to absorb in order to grow, to be able to sustain on Him, to get us through the crucible of heat we will encounter in our lives, what are those things?

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chp.8.10¹

¹ <https://founders.org/library/chapter-8-christ-the-mediator/>



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

10. The number and character of these offices is essential. Because we are **ignorant**, we need his **prophetic office**.⁴⁴ Because we are **alienated** from God and **imperfect** in the best of our service, we need his **priestly office** to reconcile us and present us to God as acceptable.⁴⁵ Because we are **hostile** and utterly **unable to return** to God, and so that we can be rescued and made secure from our spiritual enemies, we need his **kingly office** to convince, subdue, draw, sustain, deliver, and preserve us for his heavenly kingdom.⁴⁶

⁴⁴John 1:18. ⁴⁵Colossians 1:21; Galatians 5:17. ⁴⁶John 16:8; Psalms 110:3; Luke 1:74, 75.

When Jesus is seen in His full three-fold function and office as prophet, priest, and king, here’s what we gain:

- He’s the one missing ingredient that clarifies as God’s final **prophet (Heb. 1:2)** for the **ignorant**, what a disciple looks like.
- He’s the one missing ingredient that reunites as a **priest (Heb. 7:23-25)** the **alienated** back to God so that they are allowed to become a disciple.
- He’s the one missing ingredient while as a **king (Luke 1:32-33)** **protects** us from God’s wrath, a permanent death, and the world’s evil so we may live as a disciple.

When one receives Jesus as a prophet, priest, and their king,²³ One may live up to their full potential of being a disciple, because you have found the missing ingredient, water, He’s supplying everything you need, do you know Him like that?

When a church has a room full of people like this amazing things can happen. Things that can’t be judged by normal attendance numbers, or how much is in the bank, you see with people that see Christ like this, the metrics for success changes. People are no longer concerned about attending church trying to get something out of it for themselves they go because they want the world to experience Jesus. It is seen in the ministry Paul had in Ephesus.

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-prophet-priest-king.html>

³ <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/jesus-threefold-office-prophet-priest-and-king>



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

⁸And he entered the synagogue and for **three months spoke boldly**, reasoning and persuading them about the **kingdom of God**. ⁹But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the **Way** before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the **disciples** with him, reasoning daily in the **hall of Tyrannus**. ¹⁰This continued for **two years**, so that **all the residents of Asia heard the word** of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

For Paul here’s the difference in this compared to before...

1st for a whole 3 months he gets to argue his case for Jesus in the synagogue. This is 4xs longer than his usual visits to a synagogue. In v. 9 we become aware that these disciples were with him. So, these followers and emulators of Christ have helped Paul reach both Jew and God-fearing Greek, they have helped his cause. Because of these uninterrupted three months he has been able to most likely recruit a larger crew to help the church grow in Ephesus, which would be needed in this occult run town.

2nd When he did have to leave finally, he procured a place from which to teach, the Hall of Tyrannus, who would have been the local philosopher and professor. He would operate in that hall the first few hours of the day leaving Paul the ability to rent it from 11-4pm, after a session of tent making. The hall was bigger and wider known than the local synagogue and because of its’ notoriety it came along with its’ own communication system between the major towns in Asia. Paul picked up his own Social Media outlet.

3rd these disciples were able to keep up all this activity and communication for two years! That beats his Corinth stay by 6 months. And because Paul was allowed that time, along with his own set of 12 disciples, all the residents of Asia heard the Word of the Lord! - The Success of the ancient church rested not only on the shoulders of the Apostles but on the Disciples of Jesus that believed and trusted in Him, all of the offices, for their lives.

Belief/Trusting in Jesus was necessary for the ancient church, but there are other ingredients that help with mix with this water.

2nd The Secondary Ingredients in Discipleship.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

Paul in Ephesus

19 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. **2** And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **3** And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **4** And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. **7** There were about twelve men in all.

Humility

These were disciples of JB which meant they had to have a certain swagger, they had not given into the pressures from the Pharisees and here they were in Asia, a long way from home, trying to teach the people in the synagogue why they needed to repent and follow someone they had never heard about. It means that they had accepted their discipleship from JB very seriously that they, just like Jesus’ disciples were taking the message of repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand, into all the world. And all by God’s Providence God had coordinated their efforts into landing into this place at this time, so they would be saved and so they could help Paul.

But in order for this all to happen **they would have to be open to being wrong**. If anything, that is to JB’s credit for he had taught them well about the depravity of men, that all are sinners, and that to be a disciple one must be constantly aware of the need to learn and grow. Paul asked them straight up did you receive the Spirit, and they gave a straight answer ‘no’. So many times, in the Christian life when people ask us about our faith, what do we do? We get all defensive, we feign at being offended, instead of answering to our best knowledge on the scripture, why we believe the way we believe. These guys gave straight answers to Paul, because they had been taught well by JB.

Proverbs 12:15 ESV

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

James 4:6 ESV

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

These men were shown grace, they were humble enough to receive the message of the Gospel, they were open to hearing that they may have been missing the essential ingredient to their discipleship, and they were rewarded for it.

Repentance

Upon hearing the answers of Paul, they changed their minds, that’s what repentance is, it is to stop believing/trusting in one thing and it is doing a 180 and going in the opposite direction. It just so happens that God had taught them already about repentance, and the constant need to challenge what you may be believing is the right way to be. You see when we loose our willingness to be corrected, we loose our ability to continually be conformed into the image of Christ. These men changed their minds about what they thought, and they accepted what Paul was telling them, for the Spirit was at work here.

For many of us right now, when our elders confront you about a topic are you open that you may be wrong about your beliefs and your position on things? What keeps us from becoming disciples that can have an impact in this community is a sense of “I don’t need to repent”. That will stop a church from reaching its’ potential every time.

Submission

They submit to the Truth, the embrace that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Messiah, which means He is the last prophet, the undying priest, and the long awaited for KING! So, in order to make this legit, they were to be baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

κύριος (*kyrios*). n. masc. **lord, master, Lord**. *The noun conveys the idea of someone who is in a position of authority.*⁴– Love this!: *he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord.* The disciples go from not knowing anything about Him to receiving Him as the own that OWNS them, their master. That right there would have meant as it did in Jerusalem, as it did in Antioch, a public Baptism which was the same as a public execution to their Judaistic heritage they left the concern of it all behind! That is discipleship!

The disciples are rewarded with Matthew 3:11!

Matthew 3:11 ESV

I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

These men were rewarded with being included in the prophecy of JB from decades past, whether they were there or not I do not know, but what I do know, that just like Paul, they were empowered for their work, they were given a sign to bear, because Jesus Himself was confirming in them that call to follow and be HIS disciple. They have received a blessing for trusting and believing in Jesus to become a Disciple able to do His work.

[CHALLENGE]

3rd Checking to see if you have all the ingredients.

Christ desires us to be His disciples, and through His teachings he has left us ways to examine ourselves as Paul urges us to do.

2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV

⁵Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

⁴ Lo, J. (2014). [Deity](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

The Apostle that has been recorded that Jesus loved the most, left for us in his letter a series of tests. By the reading of this book disciples are able to ascertain whether they have all the ingredients necessary for successful discipleship.

1st there is the Doctrinal Test.

1 John 2:2 ESV

²He is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:22-23 ESV

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³No one who denies the Son has the Father. **Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.**

1 John 4:2

²By this you know the **Spirit of God**: every spirit that **confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

Doctrinal test – We admit Jesus is the ONLY answer for sin as a propitiation (2:2), He is the Son of God, separate in persons but sharing in power (2:22-23), and there is a HS that helps us confess this TRUTH! If that what you confess is that what you believe? To see Jesus as the ONLY answer for sin means you have accepted Him as your ultimate **PROPHET. (Problem with false Gospels of today)**

2nd there is an Experiential Test

1 John 3:24 ESV

²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1 John 4:6 ESV



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 4:13 ESV

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit

Let me just say if the Spirit resides in you, you will still sin but your desire to follow the law is there, and what’s more it is now easier to follow, and that person listens to those that help them follow God’s commands. That means you have come into the acceptance of the New Covenant, He has replaced your heart of stone with a heart of flesh, He is reigning as your **High PRIEST**.

3rd there is an Ethical Test

1 John 1:6 ESV

⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

This shows repentance and a turning away from your old life.

1 John 2:6 ESV

⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

This shows that you have received Him as Lord, emulating what He does.

1 John 2:10-11 ESV

¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

If you are walking in a way that is practicing loving others as He loved others then you have received Him as **KING!**

The Disciple not only receives these teachings He/she gives them.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 66 “The Most Important Ingredient for Discipleship”
By Pastor Jody May 02/11/2024

The life of the disciple is to realize what a wonderful Savior, prophetic, priestly, King you have and the more you realize it the more you want of Him. Being a disciple of Christ means that as you age you read more, you pray more, and the result is you share more. Discipleship is not just the receiving of God’s blessings it is the giving out of the abundance that you have received. May we all learn to live this way, to examine ourselves, not be afraid in humility to listen to those that we need to ask to examine us, may we be quick to repent where we have believed wrongly, and may we all submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father,.

Go in the name of the Son,.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit,.