May 25, 2008
Pastor Dave Hook – The Christ-Centered Life

Notes:

Small Group & Personal Study: 24/7 Discipleship Series - The Christ Centered Life

A disciple of Christ is one who chooses to follow Jesus. Being a disciple of Christ is more than a one time decision, it is also a daily commitment. In the coming weeks we are going to be looking at the disciplines that a follower of Christ is called to do daily (day after day).

This week we are going to be taking the first step in discipleship and begin learning what it takes to follow Jesus. In Luke 9:23 Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Memory Verse: John 15:5
"I am the Vine, you are the branches, if a man remains in me and I in him; he will bear fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Daily Reading:
Day 1 – Luke 9:18-26
Day 2 – Galatians 2:20-21
Day 3 – 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Day 4 – John 15:1-4
Day 5 – John 15:5-8
Day 6 – John 15:9-11
Day 7 – John 15:12-17

Lesson:

1. Read Luke 9:23: What does it mean to deny self and daily follow Him?

2. Read John 15:5 together. What does it mean to remain in Christ?

3. How does John 15:5 instruct and encourage you as a follower of Christ?

If Christ is the center of our life we will truly experience life in the fullest sense. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, life to the full" John 10:10. Because of Him we have the hope of eternal life flowing through us. Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:37-38. 1 John 5:11-12 says, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life and this life is His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life."

The Discipline of Daily Journaling: This week to help you get the most out of you time with God, if you don't already, may I suggest you begin to journal your thoughts and prayers to God in response to what you read in His word each day. It is as simple as reading the daily scripture, pausing to meditate on the message and then taking time to write down what God is saying to you in your heart as a prayer back to God. As you practice the presence of God each day in the word and prayer and journal your thoughts back onto paper, God will reveal more and more and you will begin to experience transformation by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2)

4. Share with your group how journaling has been for you this week and what God is revealing to you through His word and in your prayers.