

Discipleship and the Cross of Jesus

John 19

Main idea: To emphasize the cost, transformative power, and rewards of discipleship, and the role of the Holy Spirit in it, using the example of Jesus as the ultimate disciple.

Topic: Discipleship

Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon on discipleship and the cross of Jesus:

1. Emphasize the cost of discipleship: Expand on the idea of taking up one's cross and following Jesus (Matthew 16:24). Highlight the sacrifice and commitment required to be a true disciple of Christ.
2. Explore the transformative power of the cross: Discuss how the cross not only brings forgiveness of sins but also brings about a radical change in the lives of believers. Use Galatians 2:20 to illustrate the concept of being crucified with Christ and living a new life in Him.
3. Highlight the example of Jesus as the ultimate disciple: Reflect on Jesus' obedience and submission to the Father's will, even unto death on the cross (Philippians 2:8). Encourage your listeners to follow Jesus' example in their own discipleship journey.
4. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in discipleship: Explain how the Holy Spirit empowers believers to live out their faith and grow as disciples of Christ. Reference John 14:26 and Acts 1:8 to emphasize the importance of relying on the Spirit's guidance and empowerment.

5. Address the challenges and rewards of discipleship: Acknowledge that discipleship is not always easy, but it is ultimately rewarding. Use passages like Romans 8:18 and 2 Timothy 4:7-8 to encourage perseverance and remind your listeners of the eternal glory that awaits faithful disciples.

Regarding language suggestions from the original languages:

1. In John 19, consider highlighting the Greek word "stauros" (cross) and its significance in understanding the depth of Jesus' sacrifice. Explore its usage in other New Testament passages, such as Galatians 6:14, where Paul boasts in the cross of Christ.

2. In Matthew 16:24, focus on the Greek word "arō" (take up) and its connotation of lifting or carrying something. Connect it to the idea of discipleship as a daily commitment to follow Jesus, bearing the weight of the cross.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and Scripture passages into your existing sermon outline, reinforcing your main points and providing a well-rounded perspective on discipleship and the cross of Jesus.