



Colbenson Campus Courier

Serving with the Navigators at UW-River Falls

“Thanks for taking me to the bayou...I had a really great time and learned a few things about God/relationship with God while I was there. ” -Kaitlyn

In the book of Corinthians, Paul tells the Corinthian church to “follow me as I follow Christ.” The Christian model of discipleship is not primarily one of learning through head knowledge. The Christian life of discipleship is a model of learning through “doing.” As we look at the life of Jesus in the scriptures, Jesus taught His disciples many things... and he taught them not just once, but many times over (thankfully I’m not the only one that needs to revisit previous lessons). Teaching was certainly a priority of Jesus, but He also chose the twelve so that they might be “with Him” (Mark 3:14). Thousands of people poured in to hear Jesus preach, but only twelve were given the opportunity to walk with him every day, to eat meals with him, to camp in the same place, and to witness his life on a daily basis. This life of discipleship changed not only what the disciples KNEW about God. It changed WHO they were. After their time with Jesus was ended, people perceived they were “uneducated, common men but recognized that *these men had been with Jesus.*” (Acts 4:13). I definitely fit that description of being “common.” My life is nothing extraordinary, but sometimes I wonder if people are intimidated from making disciples because they “don’t know enough” or don’t feel they have anything special to offer others. This fear prevents them from obeying God’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). He has called every believer to this Purpose. We are called, not because our lives are extraordinary or because of our great learning, but because we have been “with Jesus.”



We am nothing extraordinary, we are just average “common” people being used by an Uncommon God to reach students at River Falls. Our prayer is that these students will then continue to pursue a life-changing relationship with Christ and that they will be used by Him to reach the Nations with the Gospel. We invited students to join us for a few days over Spring Break to go to Bayou Dularge Baptist church in Louisiana, to live life alongside some precious believers in that church, while helping with hurricane Ida relief. We shared five days with Sue and Ernie, Byron, Quincey, Miss Rosie, and four other church families, who provided daily Cajun cuisine to give us a taste of true Southern life. Quincey lost his home and much of what he owned to Hurricane Ida last summer. During our time in the South, we hung drywall in his home, which had already been gutted and re-roofed by members of the church, coming together to help their brother in a time of need. Some members of the Church also shared daily devotionals about their walk with God and how they have learned to walk more closely with Him. But the lessons we learned went far deeper than the times of “teaching,” we learned through working together, serving together, eating together, and doing life together in a real and meaningful way. This is discipleship. Some things are not taught through books and words. Some things are only taught through being “with Him.”

“Teach what you know, pass on WHO you are.”

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*To know Christ, make Him known,
and help others do the same.*

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Easy Button

Anyone remember the Staples “Easy Button” commercial from about fifteen years ago? If you don’t, feel free to jog your memory by going on Youtube and type in “Staples Easy Button” and you’ll find a selection of commercials to chose from. If you don’t want to go through the trouble, I’ll spare you the time. The plot of the commercials is that there is some sort of a problem that the person is trying to get out of and all they have to do is to hit the “Easy Button” ... all their problems will be solved with no hassle.

I’d like to think I am tougher than I actually am. Recently I got my tonsils out, I was probably the only person in the country to LOSE eight pounds between Christmas and New Year’s because of this surgery. As I was preparing for my tonsillectomy, I was reading online about the experiences of different people who went through it. One lady went into surgery thinking that childbirth was the most painful experience possible...until she had her tonsils removed as an adult. To say the least, recovery was rough. It was painful to swallow, painful to sleep, it was just painful. If I had the chance to skip the pain of the recovery and hit the “easy button,” I certainly would have done it.



Recently I was reading in John 12 and stopped when I got to verse 27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.” In the Greek language, the words of Jesus are intensely felt. His language signifies the horror, anxiety and agitation that Jesus was experiencing as He contemplated His death. We get another glimpse into his emotional state the night he was betrayed. In Luke 22:42-44, Jesus was in such anguish that “His sweat became like great drops of blood” because of the cup (of God’s judgement on sin) that He was about to drink on our behalf. When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, Peter tries to “save” his Teacher by drawing his sword and cutting off the ear of one of the men. However, Jesus tells Peter to put away his sword and says “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?” All Jesus had to do was send an appeal to the Father. Say the word, and it will be done in an instant. If there was ever a problem for the “Easy Button” to fix, this was it... but Jesus didn’t choose the “Easy Button.”

Why didn’t He hit it? Any other person who knew what was coming his way (drinking the cup of God’s wrath) wouldn’t hesitate to walk. I certainly would. In an instant, He could walk right back into the throne room of heaven, where He is worshipped day and night. He is the rightful King of all creation, and he found Himself at the doorstep of death. He did not need to be there.

In the book of Hebrews, we are told EXACTLY why Jesus chose to stay the course. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus endured the cross “for the JOY that was set before Him.”

Wait...For the joy that was set before Him? For the joy?!? What joy could there be in being flogged, mocked, spit on and hung on a cross?

Joy is a gift from God. It is experienced through living out the purpose that God had in store since before the foundations of the world (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus said “For this purpose I have come” (John 12:28). “This purpose” was to glorify God through his substitutionary death, bringing salvation to all who will believe. In spite of the suffering that Jesus was experiencing, He had joy in the circumstances because He was in the middle of God’s will. And we, as believers in Jesus Christ, have received the gift of salvation because of this choice. Because Jesus chose death, we may receive His life, if only we believe.

A reflection for this upcoming resurrection Sunday. Glory be to HIM who lives forevermore.

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