



Walk as Jesus Walked, part FIVE, May 16-19
Ray VanderLaan, Volume 7

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth, 2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

Ephesians 4:12-16

IRON SHARPENING IRON STUFF:

- Reminder of the purposes of LC – more now than ever
- Herb sensing...
 1. So much of what Jesus said makes sense if "repent" is our lifestyle = living RSU in an USD world... where life is lived moment by moment with the purpose TO BE LIKE JESUS and make disciples who are like Jesus.
 2. God's purpose is for us to be about making disciples in the context of daily life (Sunday sermon).
 3. Sin is not simply a choice; it is a POWER that blinds and binds, (Unlocking Bible, May 10)

INTRODUCTION –

† Video: Megan Fate, "For Our Good"/ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OLxxby46OU>

1 **John 2:3, 6 (ESV)** ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

† Themes for the session: - clarifying "suffering" and seeing it FWGS.

suffering, discomfort or inconvenience?

suffering as part of Jesus' Body and for God's greater purposes. Is it possible God wants others' suffering to have an impact on our lives, and our suffering do the same for others?

SESSION 5 - DON'T FORGET US!

HERB: I believe God directed us to this study to challenge and prepare us. Too often in comfortable circumstances we don't take Jesus' statements about going through hard stuff seriously so we miss what He wants to do or we are unprepared for next things. "Lord, if You have something specific to show us, please don't let us miss it!"

This session is part of the commitment I (Ray Vander Laan) made not to forget suffering Christians. It not only explores the suffering of Jesus' body many years ago, it is also a testimony to the courage and passion for Jesus that I have experienced through several young disciples of Jesus from the Sudan. Together we are the body of Christ, past and present. And this body is suffering today. May God's grace strengthen us.

Ray Vander Laan. *Walk as Jesus Walked* Discovery Guide Book 7, Kindle chapter 5. HarperChristian Resources

VIDEO Content

➔ Following the Rabbi in Derinkuyu, "Deep Well"

➔ God's plan for those who follow and suffer
Hebrews 11:32-40 (ESV)

➔ Is the body of Christ suffering?
1 Corinthians 12:12 & 16

➔ Rebecca's story

➔ Don't forget

Ray's original question: *How badly do you and I want to be like Jesus?*

Do we want it as badly as the people here? As intensely as Rebecca?

I think we *dabble in discipleship*... like it's an interesting possibility, something we do a few minutes a week...

IT'S A WALK EVERY SINGLE MINUTE OF EVERY SINGLE DAY!

And remember – He chose us b/c He believes in us.

Whoever is in Him must walk as Jesus walked. "Come," He said. "Follow Me."

HERB'S THOUGHTS

I don't think that God directed us to this study primarily to think about persecution, but to challenge us to consider more deeply what it means to fully follow Christ. This builds on God's challenges to "pay attention," "walk in step moment by moment," Luke 9:23, "fully devoted in the nitty-gritty" and more

APPLICATION:

- What did you feel when Rebecca shared her story? What did she help you realize about suffering in the body of Christ?
- As you saw images of the underground city beneath the village of Derinkuyu, what do you think it would have been like to live there with your family for a week? For a month? For more than a year? Honestly talk about whether that kind of life is a sacrifice you (and your loved ones) would gladly make in your efforts to walk with Jesus.
- Reminder Question: Persecution: Is it a time to stand or a time to run? (We discussed last week)
- Ray Vander Laan, referring to 1 Corinthians 12, spoke about how when one part of our body is injured, even if it is just our little finger, our whole body feels and responds to the pain. Read the scripture and then answer: In what ways does this illustration increase your awareness of what it means to suffer as the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:12–27 (ESV)

- Read the scriptures below. What are the responsibilities for those persecuted and those who stand by?

Hebrews 11:32–40 (ESV)

FINAL THOUGHTS

Being a disciple and making disciples always carries the responsibility to deny ourselves, to sacrifice and serve at cost to ourselves. It also carries the possibility of persecution and suffering. Whether we stand to endure persecution and suffer or we flee and suffer, Jesus' instructions do not change: **be disciples** who walk as Jesus walked and **make disciples**.

1 John 2:3, 6 (ESV) ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

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

Takeaways...



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