

DEEPER IN CHRIST

A CALL TO DEEPER DISCIPLESHIP

Foreword

by Rev Alvin Chan

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“The most important thing is to make the most important thing the most important thing.”

- Jeff Skinner (London Business School)

I heard this quote at a recent TRAC event and immediately loved it! The call to discipleship is nothing new in the church. Many church vision and mission statements will inadvertently have the word ‘discipleship’ in them. However, not many churches are aware that the most important thing in the church must be discipleship and making disciples. More often than not, we flood our church calendar with activities and events, most of the time, sadly, at the expense of discipleship and making disciples.

As I continue to pastor TMC, I am more and more convinced that discipleship and making disciples must start with the individual. However, I find many so preoccupied with noble Christian activities and ministries that they forsake this most important thing. I would go as far as to say that the most important thing about discipleship and making disciples is that it is birthed at the level of the individual. We must take our own discipleship seriously, work hard at it, and become spiritual role models. It is only then that we will be in a position to make disciples, with the help of God.

And this is why, for 2019, I want to invite all of us to go deep.

“**Deeper in Christ. Deeper in community.**” We will have two sermon series based on that theme sandwiching the church camp, which is also focused on growing deeper in Christ.

For the first half of the year, we want to inspect what it means to be deeper in Christ in our own discipleship – what are the marks of a disciple and how we can measure up to these benchmarks. This would require some introspection. This is what this journal is for – to support us as we interact with the sermon series and also reflect on how we can flourish in these marks.

An important component in this journal is the section suitably named ‘Depth Check’. Please come to that section after each sermon and decide how the scripture text and the message for that week can shape us as we seek to grow in our discipleship.

My prayer for TMC as we face this year of change is that we will grow in our discipleship – that everyone will want to take their discipleship earnestly enough to make time each week, have profound moments of introspection, such that we may all grow in our discipleship.

DEEPER IN CHRIST

Sermon Series at a Glance

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Deeper in Christ: One Thing

3 February 2019

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Luke 10:42 (ESV)

⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: What is the one change/decision I must make in order to make time for discipleship?

Loving God: Priority

10 February 2019

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John 4:32-34 (ESV)

³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: What is my greatest motivation in life? What must I do to put God first?

Loving God: Purpose

17 February 2019

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Philippians 3:7-11 (ESV)

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith – ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: What is the purpose of my life? What change must I make to discover God’s purpose for my life?

Loving God: Proactive

24 February 2019

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Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Scripture Reflections:

Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:21 (ESV)

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: What is my true identity in Christ? How can I express that relationship?

Imitates Christ: Set Apart

10 March 2019

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Leviticus 11:44-45 (ESV)

⁴⁴ For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. ⁴⁵ For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

Scripture Reflections:

Psalms 51:6-10 (ESV)

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: What are some changes I must make to keep myself holy before God?

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: How do I respond when I'm treated like a servant? What do I need to do to have the heart of a servant?

Spirit-Led: Controlled

24 March 2019

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Galatians 5:16–26 (ESV)

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to

Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: How much does God's teaching affect your decision-making and actions?

Spirit-Led: Connected

31 March 2019

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John 14:15-17,26 (ESV)

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you... ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Scripture Reflections:

John 15:5 (ESV)

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: What is one thing I am going to do each day to remain connected to God?

Spirit-Led: Called

7 April 2019

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Ephesians 4:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Scripture Reflections:

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Sermon Notes:

<p>Depth Check: What are the spiritual gifts that God has blessed me with? How can I contribute to building the community of Christ?</p>
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Loves Neighbour: Forgiveness

28 April 2019

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Luke 17:3-4 (ESV)

³ Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)

¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: Is there someone I need to forgive today? Pray for God to heal the hurt this person has caused, and pray for strength to forgive.

Loves Neighbour: Feed

5 May 2019

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Romans 12:20 (ESV)

²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

James 2:14-18 (ESV)

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: Do you look out for the needy around you? What can you do to make your ‘God-entrusted’ resources available to those in need?

Loves Neighbour: Family

12 May 2019

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Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: How can I be more aware of the needs of the people in my community? How can I love and encourage others?

Makes Disciples: Commissioned

19 May 2019

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Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go -therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Scripture Reflections:

Sermon Notes:

Depth Check: How can I grow to be a disciple-maker?

Makes Disciples: Church

26 May 2019

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Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Scripture Reflections:

Makes Disciples: Coach

2 June 2019

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John 17:21-23 (ESV)

²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Scripture Reflections:

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)

¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Going Deeper

Personal Reflections and Prayers

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