

SCF Sunday Meeting ~ 20/1/19

‘Growing in a Discipleship Culture’

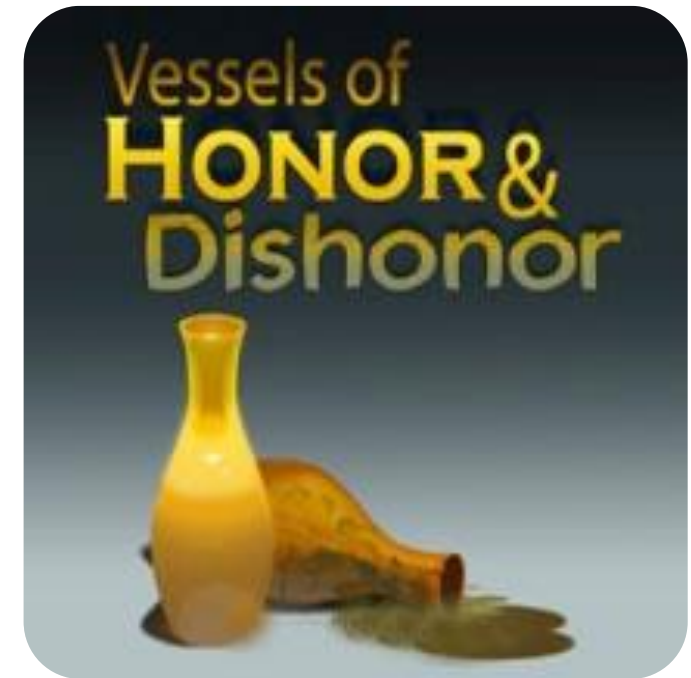


Cleansed to be a 'vessels of purpose'

"Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honourable use, some for dishonourable.

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonourable, he will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work."

2 TIMOTHY 2:20-21



Application of 2 Timothy 2:20-21

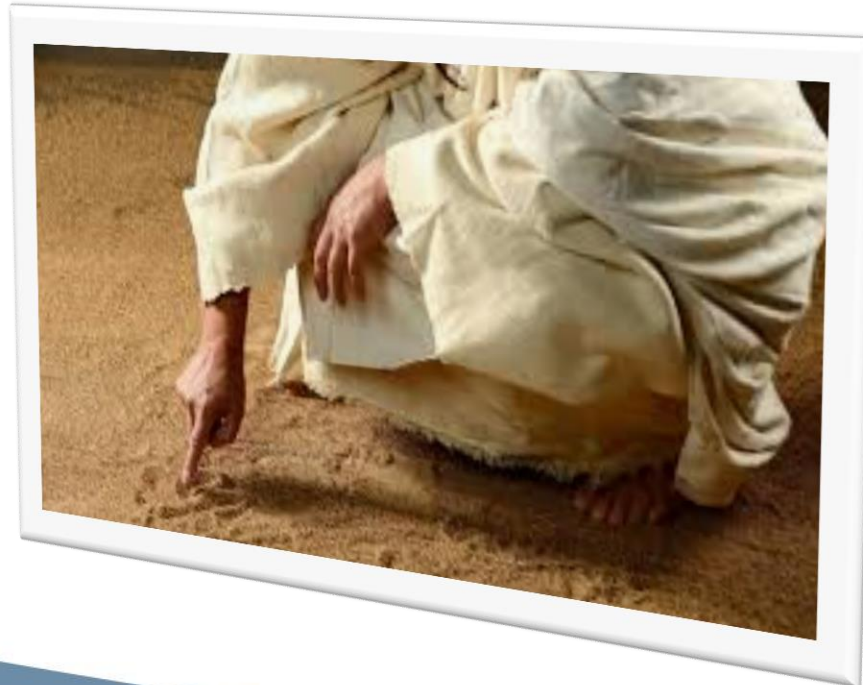
- The great house = the Church (*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints... God's household... growing into a holy temple in the Lord.”* (Ephesians 2:19-22)).
- The vessels = us (*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”* [2 Corinthians 4:7])
- Cleansing ourselves = the application of the cross (*“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”* [2 Corinthians 7:1])
- The result = honourable, set apart; poised and ready; useful to the Master ~ the product of a discipleship culture.

What does it mean to be a 'Jesus Disciple'?

- One who loves Jesus with their whole heart and desires to demonstrate that, by loving His people and loving those He seeks to win to Himself.
- One who is willing to be developed and become transformed into the likeness of Jesus, making Jesus Lord of all.
- One who is in mutually accountable, open relationships with more matured people, doing life together.
- One who is engaged in a lifestyle commitment that allows others to teach them to become more like Jesus in every facet of life ~ audibly; visually and kinaesthetically (tell; show; do).

Jesus saw discipleship as starting from the moment He came across a person

“Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” (John 8:11)



Some examples of Jesus building a discipleship culture

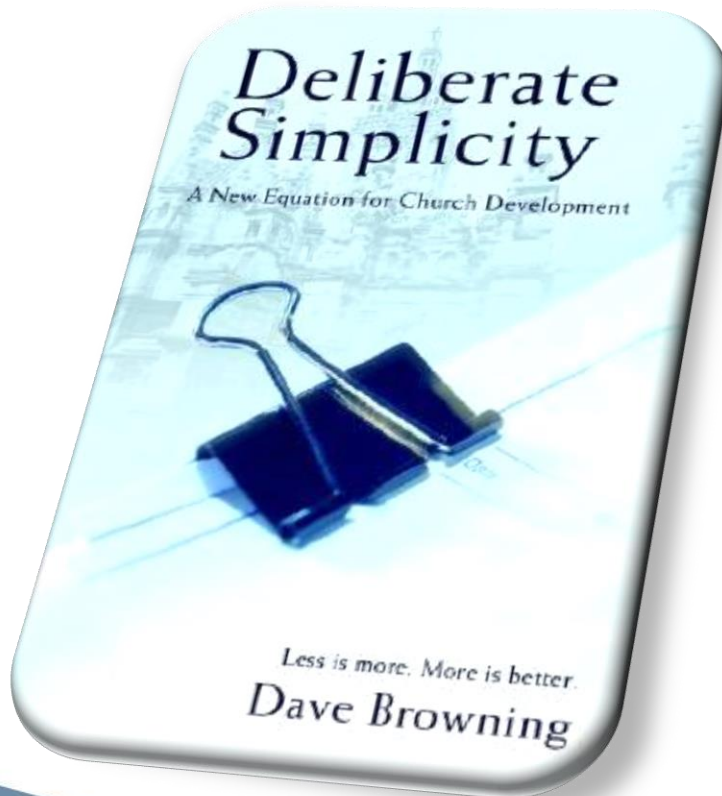
- By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)
- Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” (Matthew 14:16)
- “Go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” (Matthew 11:5)
- James said: “Confess your faults to one another and pray for each other, that you might be healed.” (James 5:16)
- “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.” (John 13:14)



The process of 'cleansing' for maturing disciples

- Awareness of God and His desire & capacity to transform you from death to life
 - Experiential depth of your repentance and faith in the forgiveness of Jesus
 - Your grasp and experience of the meaning of Water and Spirit Baptisms
 - The freedom in which you engage in heartfelt worship and praise
 - Increasing understanding/ application of the Lordship of Christ
 - Awareness of & functioning in gifts; know your identity
 - Witness of the grace of God in sharing the gospel
 - Your full commitment to your local assembly
 - Emerging leader according to your call

Quote from 'Deliberate Simplicity' by Dave Browning



“I am convinced that the gap holding back most believers is not the gap between what they know and what they don’t know. It’s the gap between what they know and what they’re living. . . . We are educated beyond our obedience.”

Some questions to discuss in small groups

1. Where do you think you are on the 'Process of Cleansing' scale?
2. Share what aspect of discipleship you need to progress to the next level.
3. Finish by praying about what you have shared.