

# Discipleship Moment

## **Sermon Text: Acts 1:6-11**

I love the book of Genesis. My love for the Scriptures has dominated my Christian life: I feel most close to God when I am studying and learning about the Scriptures. And the vast, imaginative world of the Scriptures was opened up to me, and has been cultivated by, the book of Genesis. It is truly the “genesis:” the Oxford dictionary defines it as “The origin or mode of formation of something.” The book of Genesis is the starting point and the fountain from which the rest of Scripture is produced, reflects, mediates, and references. Not only is it the beginning, but it is also the mode and the way by which the rest of the Scripture is formed. And Genesis 1-3 is the like the genesis of Genesis. It tells the story of a God who creates humans, places them in the garden, and then gives them the mission of multiplying through family-making, taking care of the animals, and taking care of and cultivating the earth itself to produce food and goods. This mission is quickly perverted when the humans choose to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was the decision to trust themselves and their own interpretation of right and wrong, instead of trusting God. The rest of Genesis is a playing out of the evil that is born out of this sin: the sin of deciding for ourselves what is right and wrong. Humans have been shipwrecked ever since.

When the Son came to earth and became human. He superseded and overcame this shipwreck. Jesus’ favorite title for himself throughout the Gospels was “Son of Man” which means “of the order of man:” or “human one.” Jesus was saying, “I am the new humanity, I am the right humanity.” Where Adam and Eve trusted themselves, Jesus trusted in God. Where Adam and Eve disobeyed the Holy Spirit, Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and was guided by him. Jesus is the human that we are all supposed to be. He is the Human One.

When Jesus was getting ready to ascend into heaven. He said to his disciples, “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and all Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” This Holy Spirit that Jesus promised was going to fill the disciples and make them a new humanity. Now, because of Jesus, we can work and do our vocations (our callings) obediently. We can do our work with the love of God because we have the Holy Spirit.

To be a Christian is nothing less than to be a new human, a Jesus-human. We are witnesses to Jesus because we are witnesses to the new humanity. When we live in this new humanity (by obeying all Jesus commanded and living with love for God and love for others) we are witnesses to Jesus. We are witnessing to the obedience that Jesus had. When we live with love for our neighbors and offer forgiveness, peace, and joy to them, we are living witnesses to Jesus, the new-human.

We often times complicate the Christian life: *Am I evangelizing enough? Am I doing enough? Am I even a Christian?* But, more often than not, these are the wrong questions. The question should be *Am I trusting in God’s promises?* If you are, and if you are dealing with your work, family, spouse, friends, in congruence with the love of God for you. Then yes, you are doing enough. You are Christian enough. Trust in God, and love him dearly. And you will love others.

## Going Deeper

*Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once.*

1. What do you think the term "Son of Man" means? How did Jesus fit this definition?
2. In what ways does Jesus live obediently to Jesus? What attitudes and feelings dominate Jesus' life?
3. Take an audit of your life: do you let those same attitudes and feelings dominate your life? Do you experience the peace, patience, kindness, passion, hope, and other attitudes that Jesus had?
4. What would it look like in your life to live this way? How would that change your interaction with your family? Your coworkers? Your boss? Your employees? Think especially of those difficult relationships: imagine living the way Jesus did in those situations.
5. Do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? If you don't, research what Scripture says about being filled by the Holy Spirit, specifically the fruit of the Spirit. What are some of the ways that the Spirit works in our lives? What is the fruit of the Spirit?
6. Make a plan to act like Jesus in a difficult situation or difficult relationship. How will you react when things become stressful? How will you react when you get angry? How will you react when you are mistreated? How will you react when you are disappointed?