

FOLLOWING CHRIST: RESPECT AND CARE

Scripture used: [John 4:15-17 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Dan Monroe started by showing a video of our recent baptism celebration. Baptism is an invitation to follow Christ, to take the time to ponder what it means to be a practical “Christ follower”. We must confess what Jesus has done for us; He has fully equipped us for both our lives on Earth and our eternal lives. We must acknowledge the call to be part of a community: to live in love and eternal confidence with both Christ and others. We must listen to the “irresistible song” of Christ which takes us to an emotional place where mild devotion gives way to total dedication and surrender of our lives.

KEY POINTS

- 1) As Christians, we can't just be comfortable. We must deny ourselves to follow Christ. We don't date Christ; we get married to Him. There is no curfew, no expiration date in our relationship with Christ. We keep His commands. With horrific mass shootings in the US every day, how do we hear God's answer? We rely on [John 3:16 \(NIV\)](#) which tells us that, if we believe, we shall not perish but have eternal life.
- 2) We won't agree with everything the Body of Christ wants of us, but we can't compromise on love, the quest of holiness, and rejection of sin. Jesus was a teacher and healer during His time in the Holy Land. He reached out to women, the poor, the sick... He catered to the Roman Centurion, the tax collector, the prostitute, and the leper. In the same vein, we can't agree with everyone, but we must show respect and care for everyone in our family, classroom, neighborhood, workplace, club and association, community, and even social media platforms! Jesus and His disciples criss-crossed the land on rocky footpaths to reach every village, hamlet, and settlement that had a need. [Matthew 25:35-40 \(NIV\)](#) reminds us that everything we do to the least of us, we do it to Christ.
- 3) Caring for others is seeing God. Finding needs around us, serving within our ability - makes it achievable, meaningful, and rewarding. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter reacts like Jesus' personal guard. He cuts the ear of the soldier trying to arrest Jesus. Jesus heals the soldier instead. We don't end hate by hating. We change the world by listening to the invitation, by following, by realizing the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we won't be complacent, we will take up the challenge.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Discern your heart. How do I personally follow Jesus?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Write down three examples of where you could have been more faithful in respecting and caring for people.
- 3) **DO** - Put together a plan, and implement it, for respect and care of people in the various spheres and “clusters” of your life.