

SERMON NOTES:



Sep. 14, 2025

Practicing the Way Pt 1
FOLLOWING JESUS

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Everyone is a Disciple

- Everyone follows someone or something.
- The question is not “Am I a disciple?” but “Who am I a disciple of?”
- Jesus’ invitation still stands: “Come, follow me” (Mark 1:17).
- Following Jesus changes us — and it changes the world.

2. Review: The Beginning of Wisdom

- Last week: Jesus’ call to choose life through repentance and forgiveness.
- True discipleship = hearing and obeying Jesus, not just believing facts or going to church.
- Many of us long to start afresh: to abide in Jesus, to know Him more deeply, to live differently in a noisy and anxious world.

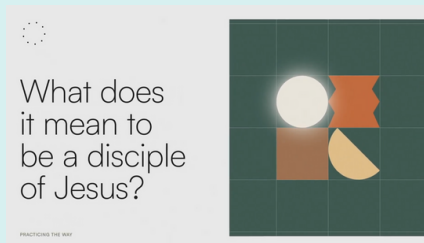
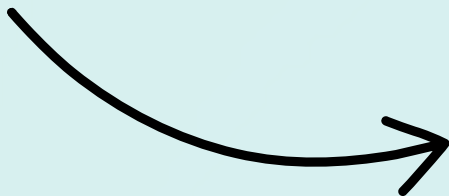
3. Practicing the Way

- As a church, we are beginning a course called Practicing the Way.
- Purpose: build practical ‘scaffolding’ to help us love God and love others.
- These are ancient practices from Jesus, for today in Tin Can Bay.

4. The Call of the Rabbi (Mark 1:16–20)

- Simon & Andrew left everything when Jesus said, “Come, follow me.”

Watch this video for some background on Jewish “Rabbi’s” and their followers:



- Disciple = Apprentice.
- Ancient learning was formational, not just informational.
- To follow a rabbi meant:
 - Be with your rabbi.
 - Become like your rabbi.
 - Do what your rabbi does.

5. Apprenticeship to Jesus

Be with Jesus

- Goal: relational intimacy — “familiar friendship” (Thomas à Kempis).
- Brother Lawrence: “Practice the presence of God.”
- Dallas Willard: keep God before our minds.
- God is already with us (Psalm 139:7–10). Like the Psalmist, we do well to practice awareness of that fact.
- John 15:4–5, 9–10 — Remain in Him, and you will bear fruit.

Become like Jesus

- Apprenticeship is the process of the Holy Spirits continual work of inner transformation.
- Spiritual formation = God shaping us to reflect Christ.
- Growth of the Fruit of the Spirit — seen in everyday life.
- Goal: to love Him so deeply that we reflect His love in character and action.

Do as Jesus Did

- “I will make you fishers of people” (Mark 1:17).
- Apprenticeship means taking part in Jesus’ mission: teaching, healing, forgiving, serving.
- Not about self, but about His Kingdom.
- Discipleship is a life of service, carrying on Jesus’ work.

6. Practical Step: Start a Daily Prayer Rhythm

- Pick a quiet place and a regular time.
- Put distractions (like your phone) aside.
- Use the Psalms as prayers.
- Start small — even 2–5 minutes a day — and grow from there.
- Some already practice ongoing conversation with God — that is fantastic! Don’t stop!

“Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us, O Lord, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness to embrace you — through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Go Deeper

Trace the Theme of Discipleship

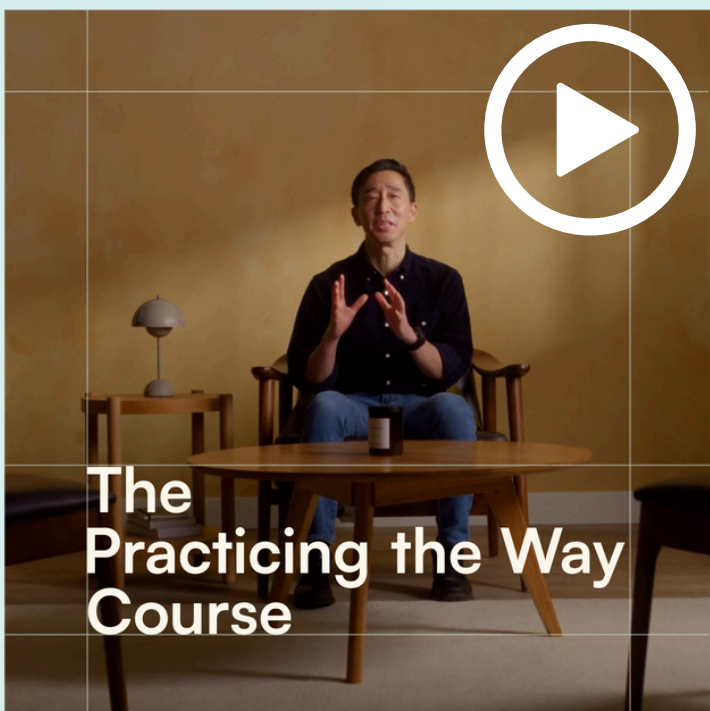
- Look at key “follow me” passages:
 - Mark 1:16–20 — Call of Simon & Andrew.
 - Matthew 16:24 — “Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.”
 - John 15:1–11 — Abiding in the vine.
- Journal: What does Jesus expect of His disciples? How can I live this today?

Compare “Rabbi & Apprentice” with “Jesus & Disciples”

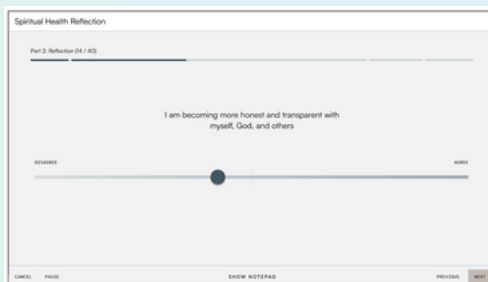
- Read passages where disciples imitate Jesus:
 - Luke 10:1–9 — Disciples sent to heal & preach.
 - Acts 3:1–10 — Peter & John heal like Jesus did.
- Ask: Where do I see the pattern: Be with Him, Become like Him, Do what He did?

Write Your Own “Apprenticeship Journal”

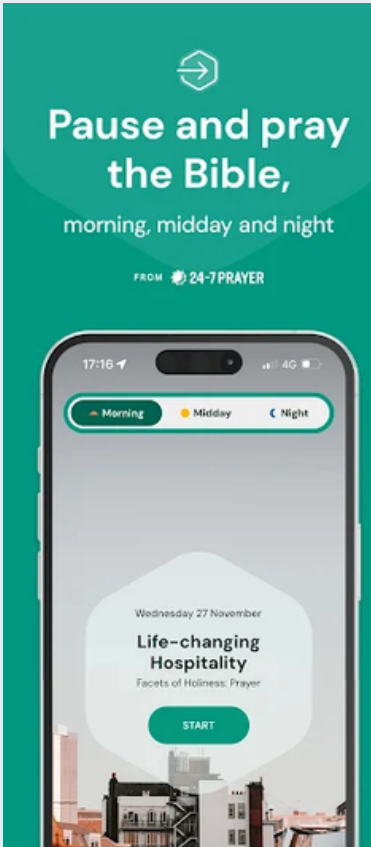
- Each week, after engaging with Scripture, jot down:
 - Be with Jesus → Where did I notice His presence this week?
 - Become like Jesus → How is He shaping my character?
 - Do what Jesus did → Who did I serve, forgive, encourage, or pray for?

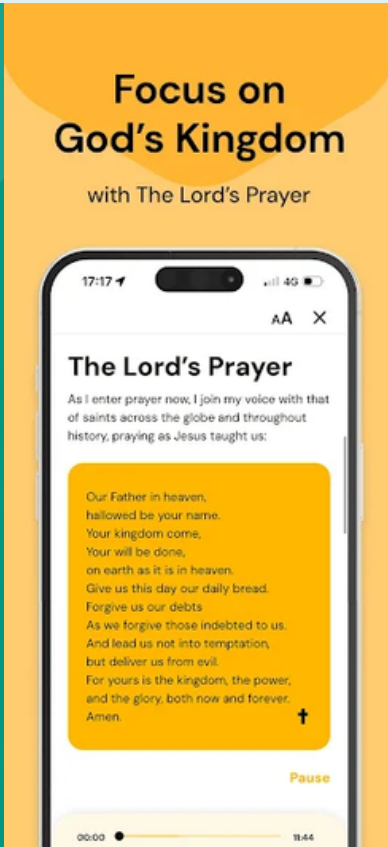


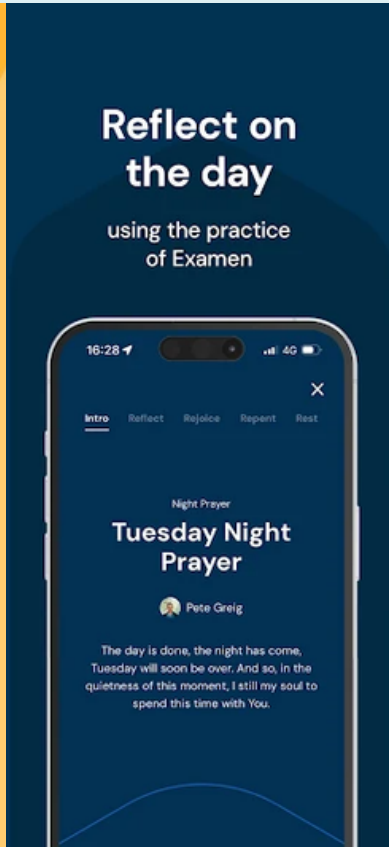
You may also like to do an self-assessment on Spiritual Health online by following this QR Code:



Anne and I have found the Lectio 365 app to be a great helper as we've been seeking to pray with greater intentionality every day.

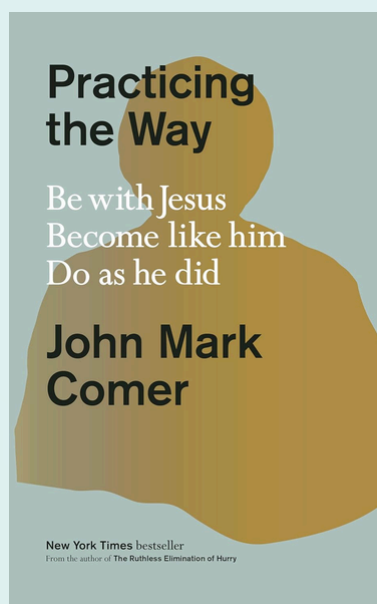












For further study, you might like to read:
"Goal #2: Become like him," in Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer, pp. 64-117.