

Dust: the art of follower-ship

9th Jan 2022 – “Come to me”

Key Scriptures: Matthew 11: 28-30; Mark 3: 14-15; Luke 6: 39-40

Summary:

There is a Hebrew saying that when someone found a wise man, or Rabbi (teacher) they should “cover yourself in the dust of his feet and drink in his words thirstily”. This come from the idea that to follow a Rabbi you would have to walk so closely behind him you would be covered in his dust as the Rabbi walked along.

In inviting people to “come to me” or to “follow me”, Jesus was calling people to be one of his disciples – a student or learner, but best translated apprentice. It was a call to be covered in his dust!

The “job description” of a disciple of Jesus:

1. To be with Jesus – to learn how to dwell or abide in his presence.
2. To become like Jesus – to have our hearts or character so formed that instinctively we do things in the way of Jesus.
3. To do what Jesus would do if he were me – that the life of God would flow through us to others.

You can listen or watch again to this sermon [here](#).

Further resources:

If you read or listen to many people who teach or write about this now, they draw heavily on the work of Dallas Willard. Two of his key books are: “The Divine Conspiracy” and “Spirit of the Disciplines”. Neither of these are ‘light’ books but are hugely worthwhile.

A more recent book exploring some of the same themes is “Invitation to a Journey” by Robert Mulholland. There is a podcast of a conversation with Ruth Haley Barton and Bob Mulholland which you can [listen to here](#).

Discussion:

(this could be something that you talk about with some friends, or in a small group).

1. Take a minute or two each to share your reactions to the talk. What was helpful or illuminating? What was disturbing or challenging?
2. What are your experiences of “being with Jesus”? What has brought life? What has been difficult? Why was that?
3. How can we avoid “try harder” or “must do better” as we engage with discipleship?
4. What would it be like to work or function from a place of rest?

Put it into Practice:

1. Take some time to write or journal about “who do I want to become?”. You could listen again to this [part of the talk here](#). Some further questions that might help: what is happening in your heart right now? What is your direction of travel? Who are you becoming if you don’t make any changes? What do others notice or say about what might need to change?
2. Write a prayer of what is stirring in you: about being a disciple of Jesus; of what you want to grow in; of choices that you are making just now. Put the prayer in a journal or somewhere safe, where you can refer back to it in the coming months.

