

65: DON'T OUTRUN THE MAN YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP

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In Week 13: Walking With Others

4 Min read



“To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.” — 1 Corinthians 9:22

Discipleship is determined as much by our pace as it is by our teaching. We often measure progress by how quickly someone changes, but God is far more interested in whether we faithfully walk with them along the way. Paul wrote, **“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”** He wasn’t changing the message. He was willing to adjust himself so others could hear it, understand it, and respond to it.

A long trail makes that easy to picture. An experienced hiker can leave everyone else behind without much effort. But a guide knows that arriving first is never the goal. He watches the men behind him. He slows his pace, answers questions, points out the next marker, and waits when someone needs a moment to catch his breath. The trail isn’t

measured by how fast the guide can walk. It's measured by whether everyone keeps moving forward together.

One of the greatest mistakes we make is expecting people to grow at the same pace we did—or wish we had. We become frustrated when they need another conversation, ask the same question again, or stumble over the same obstacle. Yet Jesus never treated His disciples that way. He walked with them day after day, patiently repeating truth, correcting their misunderstandings, and giving them room to grow. He understood that transformation is usually slow because hearts are changed over time.

Discipleship requires the humility to slow your pace for another man. Sometimes the most faithful thing you can do isn't to walk faster. It's to stay close enough that no one has to finish the trail alone.

APPLICATION

One reason we outrun people is that we become more focused on results than relationships. We want measurable progress, visible change, and quick victories. When growth is slow, frustration begins to replace patience. Yet God has never measured discipleship by speed. He measures it by faithfulness. One of the things rarely discussed is that discipleship requires more patience than most of us expect. We often become frustrated when another man doesn't grow as quickly as we think he should. But every man steps onto the trail with a different story, different struggles, and different places where God is shaping his heart. Some need encouragement to keep moving. Others need loving correction. Many simply need someone who won't give up on them before God finishes His work.

That's why Paul was willing to adjust his approach without changing the truth. He cared more about reaching people than protecting his own preferences. Discipleship has never been about getting men to move at our pace. It's about faithfully walking beside them as God changes them. We cannot force spiritual growth. We can only remain faithful enough to encourage it.

A trail reminds us of that every time we hike with someone new. The goal isn't to see how quickly you can reach the summit. The goal is helping another man keep moving forward. Sometimes that means stopping to answer a question. Sometimes it means waiting while he catches his breath. Sometimes it simply means refusing to walk away when the progress seems slow.

Jesus has never treated us according to our timetable. He has patiently walked with us through every setback, every repeated lesson, and every slow season of growth. When we extend that same patience to another man, we reflect the heart of Christ. In the end, men rarely remember who reached the destination first. They remember the man who stayed beside them until they reached it together.

LIVE IT OUT

This week, choose one man and intentionally slow your pace for him. Make time to listen, ask thoughtful questions, and encourage him where he is—not where you wish he already was. Leave the results to God. Your responsibility isn't to force growth but to faithfully walk beside another man. One step at a time, that's how discipleship has always happened.

PRAY THIS...

"Lord, help me to slow down and be more intentional about the men I walk with."

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Practice builds the man.*

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