

DTS 2022: Session 13

The Cost of Growth...

“Churches” are Supposed to Grow...

- *Corporately*, in size... but not “just...”
- Also, in the quality of *individual* responses to the heart of the Lord!
- In the number of lives that are being transformed into transformers!
- As long as there are unsaved people in the community we have been placed!
- But that growth comes with a price!

The Cost of Growth!

- **Serious prayer for, and obedience to, Holy Spirit leadings!**
- **Engaging w/others in our labors!**
- **Welcoming change!**
 - **The beginning of growth!**
 - **Condition for growth**
 - **Result of growth**

The Cost of Growth!

- Responding to, planning now for, the future!
 - Preparing for what will be!
- Risking the *fear of failure* for *the benefits of success!*
 - Which one should govern the decision making processes?

The Cost of Growth!

- Making/sponsoring/partnering with new “leaders!”
- Refocusing our purpose, and what results from it!
- Taking another look at new ideas and possibilities!

The Cost of Growth!

- **A creative outreach into new “near (a) Christian” markets!**
- **Better assimilation process!**
 - **You need people to decide they don’t want to be included in your faith!**
- **New levels of trust!**

The Cost of Growth!

- **Teamwork and individual effort!**
 - **“Working hard” for ‘the team...’**
 - **Taking initiative: commitment (active) vs. compliance (dead weight)!**

The Cost of Growth!

- Attention to “Little” Details!
 - “unattended” details lead to actions which send a strong message!
 - Neglecting personal disciplines
 - Little slips of immaturity
 - “Little foxes spoil the vines!” **Song of Solomon 2.15**



Final Words for DTS!

Mine, His, and Yours!

John 6:53

- Jesus speaking: “Truthfully... I tell *you*... (*inspirational*) the kingdom of God is about Me... and if *you* can’t swallow that, ingest and digest that, and imbibe of My atonement and strength, *you* will have none of My life in *you!*”

John 6:54

- “But *whosoever (incarnational)* will do this thing, as I have spoken it; eating and drinking Me in, they will have eternal life in them... and they will be raised up with Me on the last day (that final victory over death)!”

John 6:55,56

- “I am the real deal; food for sustenance and drink for life! *Whosoever* will eat and drink the kingdom as I have spoken it, they will live in Me and I will live in them!”

John 6:57

- “As I am empowered by My living Father, so I will be empowerment to those that will satiate; satisfy fully, gorge and glut, themselves in Me!”

John 6:58

- “I came down from Heaven as the Bread *of* Life... unlike your father’s who ate the bread *from* heaven and died, the one who eats the Bread of Life will live forever!”

John 6:60,61

- “When they heard this, they said, ‘this is too hard to accept.’ And from that moment, disenchanted, novelty worn off, many of the disciples went back and walked no more with Him! And He asked His own disciples, “Does this offend you?”

John 6:63

- “If what I said is over your head, what will happen if you see Me ascend to heaven? The Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life!”

John 6:67

- “And Jesus asked His disciples, ‘Now knowing these terms, will you leave Me too?’

John 6:68,69

- **And speaking for the group Peter, said...**
 - 1.) “Lord, to whom would we go?”**
 - 2.) “You have the words of eternal life...”**
 - And 3.) “We have believed and now we’re sure that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!”**

**There are people who pore over
knowledge, discover great facts,
embrace ideals, and then
follow, reasonably...**

**Then there are people whose
knowledge comes from following
wildly, whose discoveries come
unearthing truth, whose ideals are
forged by unconquerable assurance
that – He is simply God!**

**“I do not follow because I have
been persuaded – I follow because
I believe He is God!”**

Matthew 16:18

- “And on that revelation of who I am, I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!”

The Capernaum Crisis shows...

- It is possible to go back to an old way of life and understanding, and the Lord will let you go!
 - *“I am warned against dullness of heart!”*
- It is possible to be separated from Him, but never because He leaves...!
 - *“Even when I am unfaithful, He is not...”*

The Capernaum Crisis shows...

- The Lord knows there is a choice to make and He Himself offers it!
 - *“He not only paid it all He also risks it all!”*
- The Lord doesn't need the whole pack to accomplish His purposes, just the faith-full faithful!
 - *“He can still do the impossible with just a few who believe!”*

The Capernaum Crisis shows...

- That before we decide to go back... we need to ask, “To what?” “To whom?”
 - “There was nothing so hot about the old life that I would be willing to give up true life!”

Jesus Life and Ministry...

- Repels people because:
 - It reveals true character!
 - *He goes after the heart of the matter!*
 - It opposes carnal, selfish, wicked thinking!
 - *Everything is exposed in the Light!*
 - He is unchangeable!
 - *There are no special deals!*

Jesus Life and Ministry...

- Reveals the person-ality of right decisions!
- Reveals the importance of the right decision!
- Reveals the urgency! (Now is better than later)

Disciples come in because...

- They hear His words!
- They see His works!
- They feel His touch!
- Their needs are met!
- They feel His trust-worthiness!

Disciples stay and go on because...

- They choose rightly!
- They have a revelation of who He is and what He brings to life!
- They have entered into a love-based relationship!
- They want the Truth more than life!

Disciples stay and go on because...

- They are not seeking the easy way but the right way!
- They've reckoned there is absolutely no where else to go!
- They are living their lives to please the One who came and saved them!
- They will not let people be separated from the One who came to save them!

Only 40%

- In a study of 1200 leaders...
- Only 40% finished well...
- While God desires that all of us run our race to the finish!
 - 6 in 10 have to be carried over the finish line? NO WAY!

