

DISCIPLE MAKING

A PODCAST WITH DR. JOHN TOLSON

Episode 2 - Changing America by Changing People: Commitment

A number of years ago I was at a conference for high school students in North Carolina. One evening, a worship team was leading the entire conference (about 2,000 high school students) in this chorus and they kept singing over and over again “I believe! I believe! So why worry and fret? I believe! I believe! So why worry and fret?”

Let’s think about that for a second. One of my favorite stories of all time is about a man by the name of Charles Blondin. In the 1890s, he strung a tightrope from the Canadian side to the American side over Niagara Falls and he inched his way all the way across. There were ten thousand people in the crowd watching. When he got to the other side, he yelled out and quieted the crowd and said “I am Blondin! I am Blondin!” (What an ego trip) and then he said, “Do you believe?” and the crowd cheered “We believe!”

Then he said, “Do you believe when I go back to the other side that I can carry someone on my shoulders?” “We believe! We believe!” “Who will get on my back and let me take them to the other side?” The crowd went dead silent. Finally, one person stepped out and got on his shoulders and he made his way back to the Canadian side.

So, here’s the point of the story: Ten thousand people stood on that day shouting “We believe! We believe!” but only one person in that crowd believed enough to get on his back and cross over Niagara Falls.

Believing means giving your life over into the hands of the one in whom you say you believe. In other words, believing is commitment. Churches today are filled with people who call themselves believers but very few are committed to Christ to be available and be all he wants them to be and do all he wants them to do.

So let me ask you a few questions. Are you willing to do whatever Jesus wants you to do? Are you willing to be whatever Jesus wants you to be? Are you willing to go wherever Jesus wants you to go? He does not call you to be a nice believer. He calls you to be a committed follower. Jesus says in Matthew 16:24-25 “If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps, he must give up all right to himself, take up his cross and follow me. For the man who wants to save his life will lose it, but the man who loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Are you committed to Jesus like that?

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