

Caring For Your Soul with Trey Van Camp

Season 2 | Episode 17

Opening

Wayne: Welcome friends to Sonlife Everyday Disciple Makers podcast. Thank you so much for taking some time to listen today. I am not in the studio with my cohost Josh gates, as we approach the holiday season, we just didn't have it in our schedules to, to have time to do this together. But we did have an episode, a conversation that.

To release to you. So we hope that you're doing well today. And today's conversation is with my friend Trey Van Camp pastor and church planter in Arizona. And it's about spiritual disciplines, spiritual practices. And we thought this might be a good episode since we finished the year, as we look into the new years.

And a lot of times people, you know, make resolutions or if they don't make resolutions, they just make plans to do things in the new year differently. So I love this conversation about spiritual practices, spiritual disciplines, and how we can really care for our own souls as we serve others in ministry.

So please have a listen to this conversation with Trey Van Camp.

Conversation with Trey

Wayne: Well, Trey Van Camp, thank you so much for taking a minute to chat with me today.

Trey Van Camp: Thanks, man. I appreciate you. I appreciate how you've supported my own ministry a lot the last few years with your views, but you've also been a contributor to.

my courses and stuff. So love you, man. Love what you're doing. I'm proud of you, and I'm excited to see where the Lord leads us in this conversation.

Wayne: Yeah, well, I mean, I could go now and that just made my day, so that's, that's all I need, but I think our listeners probably want to hear more from you. So why don't first want you to just let us know like who you are and kind of your journey in minister.

Trey Van Camp: Yeah, I'll try to make it quick. But my name is Trey Van Camp. I am from Arizona, the Phoenix area. It's where I'm born and raised. And so I'm actually a fourth generation pastor. So my, on my mom's side, her. Her dad was a pastor. Her, both her grandparents were both grandpas were pastors. And then also, now my mom married somebody who was not in the ministry.

And then lo and behold, my dad became a pastor, so my mom cannot escape it. And so so yeah, actually when I was 12 years, My dad got the whole family together and said, Hey he's always been like a deacon and a Sunday school teacher and all those things in a Baptist church. But we got together and said, Hey, the Lord is calling me to plant a church to become a pastor.

And we were shocked. He was a successful businessman who owned his own concrete company which we still run. And we still do now today. But definitely not as much as he used to before. And so we just went all in. My dad always says that he planted his church with five people and that's how big our family is.

So we launched on Easter Sunday, 2004. We said free pancakes and 50 people showed up and that was the birth of what's now called Heart Cry Church. And so that was really, you know, junior high is really hard anyways that was doubly hard because, you know, planting a church life just completely changed, but the Lord really used that.

And so he actually asked me, he said, Trey, I want you to pray every morning. And I ask God for for him to reveal to you your spiritual gift. I was saved when I was five years old. And so I believe I had that, I just didn't know what it was. And so I prayed every morning, every night I truly did. And about a year later, I was at a Discipleship Now conference, which is a youth conference.

The Lord used the passage in first Kings 18 about Elijah on Mount Carmel. And I realized, wow. The Lord spoke to me and says, you're, I'm calling you to ministry. So I surrender my life at 13 to the call of full-time pastoral ministry. And so fast forward, we'll be quick, but started preaching here and there at the age of 16, went to college at California Baptist University.

And I said, Lord, I will do anything but plant a church because I've seen the suffering that my dad has gone through as a church planter. One summer, for example, when I

was in high school, we had to sell my truck in order for us to have food for the summer. And so I was like, I want some more stability in my life.

So during college, I pursued missions to possibly, which is talk about stability, right. But I wanted to do missions overseas and the Lord just kind of gently close those doors. And also I thought maybe I'll just be at an established church. And so my last two years at CBU, California Baptist. Helped us establish kind of a little bit dying, but trying to revitalize church. And I recognize maybe my skill sets aren't there either. And so yeah, I got married. And, and so then it was like, okay, college is done. Where are we going to do next? And me and my wife. I think the Lord's called us to plant a church.

So in 2016, we launched a what our church is called Passion Creek Church in a movie theater. We've had three kids since then three beautiful girls. And we love them. We love our family. God's been really good to us. It's been a lot of ups and downs. But in 20, the end of 20 16, 20 17 is when I started to do YouTube.

Started because of the inspiration of Casey Neistat. So that's a big part of my story. But yeah, here I am today, six years in to our church plant, just trying to preach the word, trying to lead our people and the practices of Jesus and just trying to make a difference in our city and around the world. So lots to learn.

I've done a lot of mistakes I planted when I was 23. I still am like, who let me do that. You know? And so a God's been really gracious. I'm about to enter my thirties. And so hopefully it's a, another, a new decade of more wisdom and less dumb decisions and leading our people towards the way of Jesus.

But again, God has been patient with me. He's been patient with our family and we're super grateful where we're at right. now.

Wayne: that's so cool. And I like, I, I know who you are because of your, your presence on YouTube. You are probably one of my favorite people that I've never met And,

Trey Van Camp: Nice.

Wayne: and through YouTube, I've seen some of your videos and that's kind of, what I want to talk about today is kind of spiritual disciplines or spiritual practices.

What has your journey been with, with kind of the role of spiritual practices and spiritual disciplines in your life?

Trey Van Camp: I love that you asked me that it's definitely a burning passion for me. So I grew up in like Awanas. So as far as the practice of like memorization and knowing your Bible, I've always been about that my whole life. But beyond that, not much, you know, and so went through college. Actually, there is, I don't say this to slam this person at all.

In fact, I encourage people to read it. It might be helpful for them, but in college I was encouraged to partake in the disciplines of the Christian life?

And so Donald Whitney has a book called *The Spiritual Disciplines for a Christian Life*. And for some reason it just didn't hit me. Well, like when I read that book, it felt like drudgery, which I think his line, his discipline with.

Something equals drudgery. It's something about where he essentially says the disciplines are not about drudgery. Well, when I read his book though, maybe I wasn't in the right frame of mind or whatever. But it just, it, I just thought, oh, these disciplines, man, they just seem, it's just a tally list of, of how to please God and I need to do better.

But it never, it didn't really ignite my soul. Into my church planning journey about the end of 2017, beginning of 2018, I was just tired, man. I mean, we had a lot of people leave our church just for various reasons. I felt insufficient in so many ways and I just felt like my, my inner life was just void was empty.

And for some reason I went over to my bookshelf and I started to pick up Dallas Willard again. He has great books called like *The Great Omission* and *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. So I read that. I thought, wow, like this, I know I've read this before, but it's like a whole new thing. And I, and then I read Richard Foster celebration of discipline and that's just, when it exploded in my heart, this is what I need to do.

And I feel like Richard Foster, a lot of, kind of that movement kind of really brought the disciplines. I don't typically use that word. But brought those practices. Just a whole new, like a breadth of life in my lungs. And I recognize like my ministry for Jesus has nothing. If I don't have intimacy with Jesus first.

And I was really encouraged by these old like desert fathers and mothers and ancient teachers. It's more than just getting up and reading through the Bible once a year. You know, there, there is so much more to these practices. And so I really latched on to those the two that really grabbed my heart initially and I've grown into more of them.

One of them was fasting. So I'm somebody if, if you're, you know, some people hate the Eniagram, whatever. I think it's a tool, but it can be an idolatry for sure. But I'm more of a seven. So I lean towards gluttony. I lean towards like over excessive of everything I do. You know, I can't have enough of it.

And so I recognize, wow, in my soul, I need to fast. I need to abstain from food. I need to abstain from pleasure because it's actually like what I'm looking for is only found in Jesus and me pursuing these things only lead me into even more depression and heartache and sorrow. And so fasting. Two times a week has been such a blessing and the rhythm of my life.

But with that also Sabbath rest by like Marvin J Dawn, she has an incredible book. It's called Keeping the Sabbath Holy that's what really grabbed my heart and attention. And so as a family, we said, we're going to Sabbath every Friday, night to Saturday. I'm ready to give that time to the Lord.

We're going to have a Sabbath dinner with friends and family, and we're going to go to the park with our kids on Saturday mornings. And I'm a recovering workaholic. And as you know, my YouTube journey, there's been a lot of times where like I've logged every day and I'm just always doing a lot. And Sabbath was such a good, like, Hey, slow down.

This world will keep spinning when even when you stop working. And so it was a great invitation for me to stop. For 24 hours to stop wanting. So we like aren't on our phones and we're not envying and to stop worrying. So there's a lot in the church planners life you're praying for a new future. You're praying for hurt families.

They're just so many, you know, you bring that worry to the Lord, but there's still like that angsty. And so we give ourselves permission for 24 hours, we don't worry about that stuff. And we just use that time to be grateful and say, thank you God, for those trees. Thank you God for this weather. Thank you God, for my beautiful children.

Thank you God. Just the way she smiles, you know, all those little things. Thank you, God. For this food. The time of week that we just really enjoy dessert and all the good things. So it's been really, really helpful for me. So I've just been on this journey of doing that myself. And now I've been trying to think through how do I tell my YouTube audience about it, but more importantly, like how do I lead my church?

How do we really introduce these rhythms into their everyday?

Wayne: Yeah. I think there's always that that tension between, at least for me, between doing it with the right heart, there are, there are days. And when I fast where I don't do it with the right heart. And, and for me, I've found that what I do is I quit fasting. Like, cause if, if I'm fasting and not seeking God, I'm just angry.

And that's like, so there are days like at 10 30 in the morning when I'm S when I've decided I'm going to fast, when I'm like this, like I'm not doing this today. So I give up and I give myself grace for that usually. And, and cause if, if I just do it.

'cause I feel like I'm supposed to then I'm just hungry and irritable and not any closer to God and not closer to my family. So how, kind of, how, I guess, how do you hold that tension between you know, that we're disciplined some, sometimes it's not what we want to do, but what we should do.

Trey Van Camp: Yeah. There's so much to that, man. And that's why we talk a lot about at our church about stages of life and seasons of life. worked for you yesterday won't necessarily work for you today. A line there's a few lines we say often to try to really get nail it home for people. One thing I say often to our people is, look, these practices are not removal to get approval.

They're making space for God's grace. So we have to keep that at the forefront. This is actually for our good and for the glory of God and it's for our joy. And it's look, we already have his favor. We're not trying to earn that. I love that Dallas Willard line grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. And that's what I love about the practices. We get so confused today saying, oh, I'm not going to do.

any of those saints because that's earning my salvation. Now that's a totally different conversation. So I try to tell our people, like we have a lot of mountains in our area. Your mountains are more beautiful than ours, but ours are pretty nice out here in Arizona.

And so I always give the illustration, let's say my rich uncle owns that mountain over there, superstition. And let's just say, when he dies, I'm in his will to own that. And then I find out that there's all sorts of gold embedded in that mountain, which historically a lot of people thought there's gold, but there's, fool's gold there.

But anyways, just a little history lesson for you for the state of Arizona. But let's just say we find out there is gold. Now, is that gold mine? Yes. Cause I own the map. But I still have to go dig. I still have to go do the work to enjoy that gold. So I try to show it that way. All this favor. It's already ours in Christ Jesus.

This grace is ours, but the practices makes space for that grace. So we can actually bring it up, unearth it so we can get rid of the flesh and put on Christ. We try to really encourage people with that. And those practices. We also say everything we're doing, it's not to mark off tallies for God.

It's to mark out time with God. So it is deeply relational. I don't typically use that language. It's not religion it's relationship. Cause I just think there's just so much baggage with that. Anyways. Technically the Bible uses the word religion and James, and so I don't try to, I just think that's a false construct, but anyways yeah, it's been hard because like here's the thing like with what you just said about fast.

We need to give ourselves grace there's days where it's like, you know what, God, I tried to do this. I just want to have that sandwich and I'm going to enjoy it to the glory of God. But the other times, like I realize, and I learned this from desert fathers and mothers, that sometimes the reason we're cranky and the reason like how we feel like we need food is actually because fasting is working and our flesh is used to having control over our spirit.

And so it's raising itself up and it's angry at it. You know, and so it's actually sometimes a sign, like keep going. This is actually working like you are, you are saying, you know what, flesh, you do not have power over me. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Right.

So that that's helpful too. But at the same time, somebody doesn't need to hear that.

They just need to hear it's okay. Go ahead and enjoy that meal. So it really depends on where you're at. That's why it's really hard to preach some of these things because

they can apply it to a wrong season of their life. So. I try to preach it. I try to constantly show all the different sides and really emphasize grace.

But a lot of this happens, we do spiritual formation retreats with our church family. I've logged those, but we do them three times a year, once every four months. And that helps us, okay, we got 15 people now let's kind of zero in. Let's, let's make a plan for your life. And so it's difficult, man. And, and I know I'm rambling, but another thing that I've noticed is, Hey, fasting has made a huge difference in my life.

But some people have a really poor relationship with food and they need to eat more, you know? And so it's not what they need. And so That's what I've recognized. You know, what they need to is to abstain from social media. It's not food is their problem. It's something else entirely. And so that's why it's really hard for this stuff, not to cookie cutter mass produce it.

And I think that's why maybe some churches don't lean into this. First of all, because I don't think they're practicing it themselves. It takes a lot of humility, a lot of time, a lot of patience and it's scary. 'cause when you open up your soul to God, it reveals some deep woundings that you have to give to Jesus and it.

It's just, you know, it's a scary thing cause you're not in charge. But also, because again, it's really hard to see quick results. This is a journey. I love Robert Mulholland. He has a great book called the invitation to a journey and it's a long process of becoming like Jesus for the sake of others. So you know, it's a lot easier to say, come to. Now, join now, serve and give, you know, and boom, all the checklists has done, but I think there's so much, there's so much more to the Christian life.

Wayne: That's so good. I think as, as ministry leaders, sometimes we, I mean, we just, we want to check those four boxes. We want people to come and be a part in and enjoying and

Trey Van Camp: they're not bad, right? Yeah.

Wayne: they're good things, but they they're easily measurable and they're, they're not messy, but walking, walking with people through spiritual practices and applying that to, to their lives and their seasons that.

That's messy or that, that takes more intentionality. That isn't something you can, you know, you can, you can study and prepare to preach a sermon every Sunday. And that's a lot of work in that's can be blessed by the Lord, but, but to take time to invest individually, I think is, is really following what Jesus did as an example.

You know, he, he, he preached to a lot, he fed a lot of. With a lot of bread and fish or a little bread and fish. But, but man, we see him investing in Peter, James and John, and in that group of 12 in that group of 72. So I just loved that, the emphasis that you have.

I guess how, how are some of the ways that you have, like at least maybe tried to communicate the value of these spiritual disciplines, these practices to maybe to your whole church or to your YouTube?

[Trey Van Camp](#): Yeah, that's a great question. Ruth Haley Barton. She has a really great quote in strengthening, the soul of your leadership, she says the best gift. You can give your people as your own transforming selves. And I love that. And you know, Paul says this to Timothy, Right.

Where he says, keep a close eye on your life and your doctrine for by doing so you will save both yourself and your here. And so it's actually like this really cool. It feels like a cheat code. My number one job is to follow Jesus and to tell people about it, you know? And so I think my own life transformation and people, and, you know, it's harder a little bit harder to communicate on YouTube because you don't see the highs and lows as much.

I try to capture both of those, but when you live life, The bummer about planting a church at 23 is when people really knew how immature you are, you know, but the, but the beautiful thing is they're going like, wow, look how much. Is growing you and continues to grow you. I was really grateful. We met with a guy who was coming, who thought about coming to our church.

And so he wanted to meet for awhile. So he listened to some sermons and some of my YouTube things. And he says, the thing is like, there's not a lot of stuff you guys offer because you know, we're still a church plant. So it's not like we have like this incredible, I love our children's stuff. But, you know, from the outside looking in, like, you don't have all these programs and all that kind of stuff, but he said, what stood out to me is your leadership.

You do lead by example. And like, I feel like I want what you have, and that's why I want to meet about joining your church. And I'm really grateful for that. So I think my number one job is to make sure that God is working on me and then having that wisdom because there's some things guys doing in my life Right.

now that I'm not sharing with anybody because I actually think it's private.

I think God is doing something intimate in my life and it's not to repurpose and repackage for the world to hear about it. At least not yet. And that's something I haven't always learned, especially as a blogger. I usually just post everything that happened the day before. But yeah, I think living it out and having an opportunity, I think, to just be there for people, I think it just communicates like, Hey, it's the ministry of presence and I, and we try to constantly remind ourselves are.

We don't have that presence among people, if we are not spending time in the presence of God. And so I don't know if I'm answering that. I don't know if we're doing a great job at that, but that's what we're trying to do. There's certainly people, because they've had like a legalistic background, they're really fearful of some of our language that we use. But as a church plant the majority of our church family is unchurched. They, they never been to church before where our first we're the first one. And so it's, there's actually not a lot of obstacles for them. Cause they didn't, they don't have baggage with those words. But I am trying to figure out more and more, how do we lean into this for those who do have that baggage and be loving to them.

And so I kind of share a little bit of my journey. I grew up in church too. And when I hear this stuff, initially, it's just sounds But I just love how Richard Foster just really it's, it's an invitation to joy. It's an invitation to love. It's a beautiful journey. And so, yeah. And, and lastly, I think the biggest thing is I can't, like, I can't convince anybody to do this.

I think the more I try to force our people to do it, the less they'll do it. It's kind of like parenting, Right.

Like it's the, you know, so we have to do reverse psychology a little bit. So really it's, here's what we're doing. We're inviting you to join us. And so we hope that they join us, but we don't like have a system that checks on them that make sure that they engage in Lectio Divina or, you know, and to make sure that they Sabbath rested this week.

I just don't want to do that. Plus That's exhausting and I've got better things to do with my life. So I just hope to keep sharing and highlighting people who are doing it. And then hopefully just continue to inspire people in their journey to join.

Wayne: That's good. And I, my, my guess is many of our listeners are at least somewhat familiar with the idea of, of Sabbath and the idea of fasting. But you just happened to their mentioned Lectio Divina. So if somebody has never heard of that, how would you describe that practice?

Trey Van Camp: Yeah. There's a lot of better resources out there than me to describe it, but essentially. You, we go over the next spiritual formation retreat. So I should have this down, but essentially it's you read, it's just a passage. You pick a passage. What I typically do is I pick a passage in the gospels and that's where I introduce people into the concept because it's, it gets a little bit harder when it's not a narrative.

So we find a pericope P or a paragraph or a story from the life of Jesus. We read it slowly at first. No pressure to like figure out the study of it all. You just kind of read through. Then you just ask the Lord, you invite him into this space and then you say, okay, read it again. And, and my spiritual director encourages me now into yourself, into the scene.

So you you've read it enough. You can now close your eyes and imagine that you're there. So sometimes you imagine that you are Peter other times you're just a bystander. And so this is where some people think it's strange. And so if some people aren't ready for it, I don't push it at all. You know, you just kind of imagined all the five senses.

Like, what am I feeling? What does it smell like? You know, what am I seeing? And then you just, you just kind of sit there and you allow God, you invite God in, in silence and just, okay, Lord, is there something here for me? You know, is there something, you know, my Baptist in me is like, okay, is there something to repent of?

Is there a principle to fall off? And so, but I have to go. Okay. No Lord. Setting the agenda right now, Lord. And then I just, I just kind of read over it over and over again, and try to enter myself into the scene, invite Jesus into it and say, what are you saying to me? It's typically in the season of life Right.

now is just an invitation to recognize how much he does love me.

And I usually push that away. And so it's actually receiving that and walking in that truth about other times, it is like Hey, you need to repent of this. I get up finally, when I'm done and I move forward and I have to make corrections and I have to, you know, repent to the Lord or to others. And so, yeah, I really encourage people to check into it. It's a great way to slow down. A lot of us, we say a lot at our church. It's not about a reading plan. It's about a reading pace. And so what we try to say is like, figure out how much time you can give the Lord. And don't worry if you finish the chapter or if you read the whole Bible in a year, like, let's just like start here and just say, okay, God, I'm gonna get. 15 minutes. So I just set a timer. Don't think about it ever again until it goes off and just kind of relate to the text and see what happens. So that's a little bit of a snapshot. I imagine I didn't do it well, but that's a little bit of what Lectio Divina is,

Wayne: I like it. I think it's, I think it's a good overview. I think so often, you know, I, I don't like one year Bible reading plans because I never. If I'm reading that much, I don't process it.

Trey Van Camp: right.

Wayne: it's like for the last few years I read the Moravian daily texts, which gets you through the Bible in two years.

Which I feel like is, is about enough. And I don't do that every day. I do it many days. But then even beyond that, just trying, yeah. Trying to take time where, where the amount that we're reading, isn't the goal, but meeting with God is the goal. And I love that you mentioned just hearing from God that he loves you, because I know there, there are times where, you know, I mean they're praying or aren't reading scripture.

And like I walk away after this time really wanting to hear from God. And all I really feel that I heard was that he loves me and I'm disappointed because I wanted, I wanted this huge thing from God, but. But when I stop, I'm like, like I know, I know that God spoke to me and that he loves me and that he cares for me in these with me.

That should be enough. Like that, that should be a good time with the creator of the universe to leave knowing he loves me. But sometimes I go with that expectation, like I need to, like, I need to know what I'm supposed to do with my life. Yes. Thanks that you love. Appreciate it, but what am I when I go looking for the, what can I do, but that just to slow down to sit in that love and that grace from the father.

Well, man, I appreciate so much your, your conversation on this. You mentioned about, I think 14 or 15 books is there, is there one or two books? If you, if you had somebody come up to you that was interested in learning more, is there one or two books that you would point them to to start.

Trey Van Camp: Yeah. In the terms of spiritual formation, all those sorts of things, I would say number one. The celebration of discipline I'm over here, looking at my library celebration of discipline by Richard Foster, I think is incredible. So I tell everybody to pick that one up. And another thing that I tell everybody to pick up is my spiritual directors book mansions of the heart by Thomas Ashbrook.

It was it's really good at quick synthesis. It analyzes Saint Teresa of Avila. She believes that there's seven mansions to the Christian maturity and Christian Love and Christian growth. And most of us, and especially in America, the way that we program our discipleship. We never get people past mansion three.

And so the last four mansions are actually, coincidentally are a mansions of love. It's like an engagement process to the Lord where, you know, you first come to the Lord because of what he can do for you. And then you're excited about what you can do for him. But the next stage in the journey is, oh, it's just about being with.

And love and being loved by him and loving him and loving others. And so I really love that mentions of the heart book. It's actually, I read that book first and was like, I need to meet this man. And so I found him online and I found his number and now we meet once a month. So it's a great book. It's a great invitation to really learn about spiritual form.

Wayne: so good. And if, if people want to follow what you're doing, wanting to connect with you what's the best place for them to do that.

Trey Van Camp: Yeah, I'm mainly on YouTube and Instagram. So look up Trey van camp. It's three words. So van and camper separated. It's actually why a lot of people fall find my channel because they're searching up a van live videos. Isn't that funny, like camping in a van. And then they're like Trey camp and they're like, wait, this isn't about van camping, but anyways, yeah.

So Trey Van Camp is the name I would love I answer Instagram, DMS and YouTube comments. So that'd be a great way to connect.

Wayne: Awesome. Well, thank you again, Trey so much for your time today. I hope you have a good day and we'll talk soon.

Trey Van Camp: Thanks man. Grace and peace.

Closing

Wayne: I was so grateful to have that conversation with Trey. I just loved his heart for ministry and for caring for his soul and for sharing what he's learning with others. He mentioned multiple books in that conversation. And in my challenge to you, as we, as we look into the new year would be. To find one of those, maybe that you haven't read to grab it and to make that part of your January reading.

While I was editing this episode, I actually went and bought two of those books. So I'll read one of them in January and one of them in February.

But thank you so much for being part of our podcast, listening and be a part of our community throughout this year. We hope that you have a great holiday season and we'll be back in January with new episodes of our Sonlife everyday disciple makers.

If you have any questions or want to reach out, you can reach us at podcast at Sonlife dot com and here's our disciple-making moment.

Disciple Making Moment

Jay Fast: Hi, my name is Jay Fast and I serve as the international ministries coordinator for Sonlife. And I'm here today with a another disciple-making moment. In the gospel of mark chapter 10. Jesus. Is talking with his disciples and he shares with them once again that he's heading to Jerusalem and he's going to, he's going to die.

He's going to be crucified. This is the third time in, in mark chapter 10, verses 32 to 34. It's the third time that he predicts his death. About eight or nine months before that he had predicted his death the first time when he was up at Cesarea Philippa with his disciples. And then not long after that.

After the transfiguration he predicted his death a second time. And so this is now the third time and it seems like. Wouldn't his disciples start to get it after three times. And, and when they start to kind of be thinking and understanding what he's talking about, but we're told very clearly in the scriptures that, that they just didn't get it.

It was like, It was like a rubber ball bouncing off a brick wall. They just did not understand what he was talking about. They did not get it. And, and one of the things that I think of as, as I think about investing in people, discipling people and especially as I think about developing and investing in leaders is that there are some really key things, some really key leadership lessons that leaders need to, to have and need to understand.

And this is what. That Jesus has really clearly talking to his leaders at this point. And he's challenging them with the fact that leadership is about sacrifice that he's on his way to. That he's laying down his life in order to give life to other people. And that's what leadership is all about.

Leadership. Isn't about being in charge. It's not about making decisions. It's not about having a lot of power or influence leadership. Ultimately, according to Jesus is about laying down your life so that you can give life to others.

And I find it really interesting or, or maybe funny, I guess it's not really funny, but right after Jesus talks about this idea of going to Jerusalem again, predicting his death discussion kind of rises up with a few of his close disciples, James and John, they come to him and they, they ask him kind of a, kind of a stupid question, honestly, right?

Like, Hey, Hey Jesus, can we be a super important, you know, when you, when your kingdom comes and all this kind of stuff, can we sit at your right hand and your left hand? I have this moment where I look at at this passage and I just visualize Jesus kind of taking the palm of his hand and putting it to his face.

Right. Like, oh guys, you just, you just don't get it. Right. And then Jesus gets into the the famous passage where he talks about the rulers of the Gentiles, lording it over them. Right. And the fact that it's, it's not the way that his kingdom is, is designed to operate. His kingdom is designed to operate with, with leaders who are servants of the people that they're leading.

And then he says in mark chapter 10, verse 45. He says for even the son of man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. This classic passage, this classic statement that Jesus makes that he came not to be served by people, but to serve.

The role of a leader. The role of of you, the role that I have as a leader is not to not to be served, not to get accolades, not to have people pointing at me and thinking that I'm great or something like that. But my role as a leader is to serve other people is to sacrifice.

Jesus often goes out of his way to talk about being a servant.

And as he is the model for multiplying servant leaders, I think we have a lot to learn here thinking about challenging people that we are investing in to lay down their life so that they can give life to others. Unfortunately, the, the leadership trend at least in my experience is that that leaders even in the church, tend to lead like the.

And I think what we need is more leaders who are, are leading like Jesus servant hearted leaders who are laying down their lives in order to give life to others.