

# HERITAGE

## *as discipleship*

## HERITAGE AS DISCIPLESHIP

TEXT: MATTHEW 28:19-20

Heritage can only go so far as one embraces it and takes part in it. Heritage takes time to develop and enrich. We've had 26 years of adding to the story of Southland now and whatever your contribution, God knows and He has seen it fit to weave into the fabric of our history. Our heritage as discipleship will ensure that the richness of God's Word, God's ways and God's work continues beyond our lives and flows into the lives of disciples to follow, who will take the baton into future if the Lord tarries His coming.

### 1. A spoken tradition – *Deut. 6:1-9*

- A. The faith needs to include teaching, but also living.
- B. The faith needs to include doctrine, but also historicity.
- We can't separate our heritage and discipleship from doctrine

### 2. A successful transfer – *2 Tim. 2:1-3*

Heritage as discipleship is all about transfer. It's a transfer of truths, experiences and values to those who will follow.

- A. A successful transfer must be the goal.
- Our goal as Christians and the church body is to successfully transfer what has been entrusted upon us.
- B. A successful transfer must be defined.
- C. A successful transfer must come through formation.
- The goal of sharing the church's stories with the next generation is to shape their understanding of our doctrine, our purpose and our values, which will be guide to their future direction.

### 3. A serious toll – *Judges 2:8-12*

When we don't use heritage as discipleship by ignoring it, taking pride in it or failing to communicate it, there's a price to pay.

- A. The cost of a forgotten heritage is also the cost of a forgotten faith.
- When we neglect to use heritage as discipleship we fail to pass on the faith.
- The truth is, what we know of God shouldn't be kept to one generation alone.
- B. The cost of a forsaken God is also the cost of a generation lost.
- The God of their fathers was forsaken and because of that a generation was lost.
- The cost is always greater than you.

Our heritage is a story of God. We're simply the stewards of that and yet how we treat it directly impacts the making of disciples. What impression are you making on those that are to follow? Do we tell and train? Do we live sincerely and passionately?

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