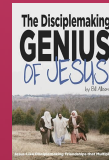


“We train disciplemakers...”



Jesus style  
— p. 2



Who am I?  
— p. 3

# Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

*Making Disciples Naturally* Podcast & Richard Spann's blogs are found at [KansasNavs.org](http://KansasNavs.org)

**Discipling Genius of Jesus**  
— page 2

**“Righteousness, Peace and Joy”**  
Goads and Nails excerpt  
— page 2

**Who am I, really?**  
See the article on pages 3 - 4

**Update on Kansas State Fair:**  
After 15 years of successful outreach, we have decided to focus more on individual discipleship opportunities. We will not have a Kansas Navigators presence this year at the Fair. Thanks to all who have helped over the years!

## “Discipling Principles from the Sermon on the Mount” is Topic for Men’s Retreat

Be sure to sign up today for our Men’s Retreat, Friday evening and Saturday, March 28-29, 2025 at Camp David (formerly Cross Wind Conference Center) in Hesston, Kansas. You won’t want to miss the great fellowship, excellent teaching and encouragement which you’ll experience.



Our speaker this year is Mr. David Wooddell, former Kansas City Ministry Director for the Navigators who now serves as Kansas City Workplace Director. Prior to joining the Navigators, David spent 40 years in the corporate world working in the financial services industry with General Electric, Alliance Data, and Montgomery Ward. He and his wife Dinah felt the call of God to go on staff with The Navigators® in 2007. Having come out of the business world, David has a heart for business people and how they can advance the Gospel in that setting. David’s topic for the retreat will be **Reflections on Discipleship from the Sermon on the Mount**. He invites all who will attend to read through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5,6,7) several times prior to the retreat.

Registration is available [here on our website](#). (There is a \$10 registration fee discount for those who **register online!**) Why not offer to pay for a couple of friends to join you as well? You will be blessed!

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“...keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”

—Hebrews 12:2 (NET Bible)

# The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus

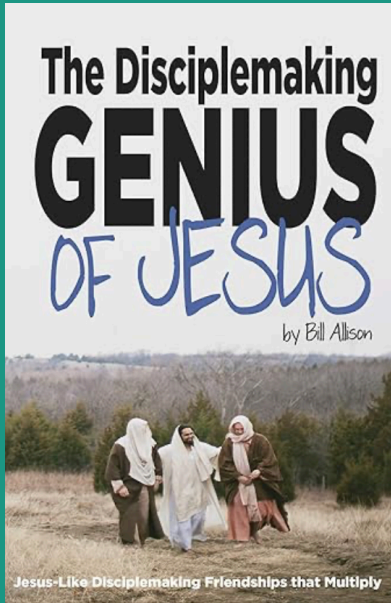
by Bill Allison (Pub. Cadre Missionaries, 2018)

Bill Allison works with Cadre Missionaries and writes a blog ([CupOJoeWithBill.com](http://CupOJoeWithBill.com)) and has worked in the area of discipling for many years. In this book he raises the issue of whether our current discipling efforts fall short of Jesus-style discipling.

He notes the importance of friendships AND the importance of discipling. In his view, these two need to be brought together in “disciplemaking friendships.” He notes “It’s not just sharing the gospel. And it’s not just sharing life. Discipling friends share both the gospel and their lives with each other — and others — together.”

He emphasizes the importance of life-on-life discipling as he recalls “In Jesus’ day, rabbis chose

disciples and the goal of these Jewish disciples wasn’t just to learn what the rabbi knew — but to learn to live like the rabbi in every nook and cranny of their lives.”



He discusses the question of “What does first century Jesus-like discipling look like in a 21st-century western world?” For those who enjoy mnemonics, Allison weaves a variety of memory aids throughout the book to help us recall this approach (TW=Time With Jesus; K4=four intentionalities: studying God’s Word to know and love God, prayer, extravagantly loved by God to love others extravagantly and all of life is worship; D3=disciplemaking for three generations of disciplers). He says we should start with PIE: Prayer, Initiate, Engage.

Each chapter ends with good discussion questions that one could use in one-on-one or small group relationships.

## Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Righteousness, Peace and Joy”

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 105-108)

*Righteousness (Doing what is right), Peace (with peace in your heart), Joy (and a smile on your face).* — Lorne Sanny

With the above words, Lorne addressed our group, reminding us that it is possible to know what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. The three key words he used were righteousness, peace and joy.

In the Old Testament, we see descriptions of the righteousness that is able to approach the Lord and do what is right. In Psalm 24:3-4 we read the following: “Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.” In Micah 6:8 we see the Lord’s declaration of the righteousness that He requires. “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” In the old covenant, however, with everything coming from man, it was impossible for man to fulfill this righteousness... In the new covenant, with everything coming from God, we see a righteousness that is ours in Christ. “It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.” (I Corinthians 1:30) Alistair Begg once remarked that “our identity with Him is not an achieved identity, it is a received identity.” We receive His righteousness moment by moment, manifested by the power of the Holy Spirit, to meet the demands of each situation we face every day. We can experience His righteousness by faith as we look to Him to always do what is right.

We see the relationship of these three words in the following verses in Romans 14:17-18. “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.” May the Holy Spirit direct you in His righteousness, peace and joy so that you will be enabled to know what to do, when to do it, and how to do it.

In Christ, Richard Spann

## The Truth is What God Says About You by Richard Spann

The truth is what God says about you,  
not what you think about yourself. — Ray Stedman

You may have seen his claim to fame on television a number of years ago. It started as follows: "I am the greatest! My only fault is that I don't realize how great I really am!" His dialogue continued at some length describing his various attributes which contributed to his greatness. Such statements epitomize the natural man in his distance from God. Although it is not common to hear claims to this degree, most, however, would ascribe to the thoughts expressed by the title of a book written some years ago entitled *I'm OK—You're OK*.



The word of God to the natural man, however, says the opposite. You are not OK! We read the following in Romans 3:10-18:

"As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.' 'Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.' 'The poison of vipers is on their lips.' 'Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.' 'Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.' "

God, in His Great Love, did not leave mankind suffering the consequences of its rebellion. I Peter 1:3-4 states the following: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you." Many have entered into this living hope and inheritance over the centuries since our Lord has made this provision for us. The scriptures are full of His promises and provisions for our walk with Him. Some, through failure to realize these promises and avail themselves of His provisions, have been disappointed in their walk and relationship with the Lord. Some still look to the old man, trying to find some good in that which Christ has taken down into His death. Some may look at others and compare their lives with those who are deemed to be more successful in their Christian life, leading to an incorrect view of their relationship with God. Still others have focused on their failures and consider the Christian life to be attainable only by a few. Many experience discouragement and do not think their life measures up to what God expects of them. After some years, it is common to settle in to what they regard as a mediocre degree of Christian faith. In addition to our own sense of failure, the evil one is quick to point this out in our lives as well. As a result of the above, some Christian's thoughts about themselves are ones which focus on their failure and inadequacies. To liberate us from this pattern, God wants us to know that the truth is what He says about us, not what we think about ourselves.

"If you can't see very far ahead, go ahead as far as you can see."

~ Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators ®. Quote found at [https://www.azquotes.com/author/24943-Dawson\\_Trotman](https://www.azquotes.com/author/24943-Dawson_Trotman)



## You Are What God Says About You (Continued)

For a helpful list of what God says about us, I would refer you to one found in a book by Bill Gillham entitled *Lifetime Guarantee*. (Harvest House, 1993, pp. 93-94)

You are justified and redeemed (already). – Romans 3:24

Your old self was killed (crucified). – Romans 6:6

You are not condemned. (My performance is condemned when I don't trust in His life through me; but God does not condemn the performer, just the performance.) – Romans 8:1

You are free from the law of sin and death. – Romans 8:2



You are accepted. (All my life I've sought to be accepted. Now I am!) – Romans 15:7

You are sanctified (holy, set apart). – I Corinthians 1:2

You have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption. (I am ransomed—restored to favor.) – I Corinthians 1:30

You are always led in His triumph (whether it appears so or not). – II Corinthians 2:14

Your hardened mind has been removed. – II Corinthians 3:14

You are a new creature. (Even though I don't always feel or act like it.) – II Corinthians 5:17

You are the righteousness of God. (You can't get more righteous than this.) – II Corinthians 5:21

You are joined with all believers (not inferior to anyone). – Galatians 3:28

You are a son and an heir. – Galatians 4:7

*(Editor's note: For a complete list from the original blog, please see this post: <https://kansasnavs.org/the-truth-is-what-god-says-about-you/>)*

Our lives are governed to a large part by the narrative that we tell ourselves. The Truth Project starts with the following question: "Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?" Do we? Do we really believe all that God says about us? Then we need to let it be our narrative daily. We need, as Jerry Bridges says, to preach the Gospel to ourselves daily. We need to examine, study, memorize and repeat to ourselves daily what God says about us. Only then will our hearts and minds capture and rejoice in the truth of who we are in Christ. We no longer need to be captive to an incorrect narrative. We can live in the

"Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved. Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full. Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, 'in Christ.'" ~ Watchman Nee, Chinese Christian leader and teacher. Quote found at [https://www.azquotes.com/author/18200-Watchman\\_Nee](https://www.azquotes.com/author/18200-Watchman_Nee)