

Computer Generated Transcript - This morning that's really what we're talking about is we're going to be talking about discipleship we get asked all the time how we disciple what the plan is and if you're if you've been around our church very long and even if you haven't you probably already seen it on several things we have a mission statement for it for our church of creation statement that we want to reach our community through building relationships that is our goal as to how it is to build relationships want to time and use those relationships to over the kingdom of God All right that's that's what we believe in and we were very strongly in favor of relational evangelism we do events we like events but we know that if we can make a personal connection with somebody that's going to stick way longer than just having a speaker that somebody doesn't know get up and talk to about things we believe in that model of ministry in a huge way and so we try to gear and things around that and we're going to introduce another piece of that puzzle this morning and it's not original with us it's not a rocket science type concept but we get asked all the time what are the cycles your program is and I just want to talk to you this morning for a little while about what we believe that looks like a lot of us have grown up around the church in the church some of us in this place have this might be your very first time ever in a church some of you didn't come to know Jesus until you were an adult you got all kinds of different faith backgrounds here and I love that but one of the things that happens in church is a lot of times is we confuse discipleship with feel logical learning OK so we call our classes discipleship right and that's how your design folds and that's what that's all because of all those involved have now listen I am in no way of opposed this theological learning with OK I believe that God gave us the heart soul and mind and we should grow in heaven all three of those areas All right we should study we should learn we should know what the Bible actually says we gave an illustration about that the other day but if we think that. Discipleship is simply sitting in a class and learning more about the Bible than we have missed the mark of what discipleship is by a wide margin All right I challenge you even any book of the Bible to find that model of somebody growing in their relationship with Jesus or God in general when or where that's it they sit and they just learn more stuff find it anywhere in Scripture. Now you can find out hearts of something you can find that is a piece of something Jesus obviously caught his disciples he taught them how to break the top of Scripture he he showed them his yoke is we've gone that is not as you have here love God of love people it's a really simple yoke all right but if that's what we boil down our discipleship process to that we're really missing. Because as Jesus decided told as all of these other people disciples we see a lot more of just come with me and learn how to do life. Cope with me and let me show you how to do this thing and then Jesus had the audacity with only about six months of training to send his disciples out to buy into all by themselves. They're going to following Jesus for about six months when that happened then he said yeah go go do it go go take your gospel out and come back you're coming what happens. Now really how we've been for about discipleship most times most of us like guys that have this idea that discipleship is done in the classroom and that's part of it and I want to I want to look into all testament here we're going to go back to Exodus All right so if you've got your Bible if you open up the exodus that's where we're going to be this morning that's what we're going to talk through and I want to look at the for the life of all of this because I really believe we see a very very clear and clear idea of what discipleship lot. Like when we look at Moses Now I need to do a little bit of background we're not going to pick this story up and I just want the story of an exodus to after eighty five All right so far as this if most of you have heard this story some of you maybe not vul this by the time we read this story is about eighty years old OK if you go back and you look at you do some timeline you will see Moses was in the palace being raised in Egypt for the first forty years of his life all right you can go and you could look at that he was taught in the ways of Egypt he was taught he was taught how to rule most likely being in that place he was given a lot of tools that he would have needed to be able to to lead God's people later thank God that Moses was given some of that instruction in the fall as were the first forty years and why then we need Moses Jill to do with a book and so a lot of people hear this little rabbit trail feel like they have done something so bad that God does have reduced them Moses committed murder. And was still used by GAAP. There is no disqualifying all right there there might be something in

your past that makes you can't work with a certain age group but we believe that God restores and God wants to use us and there's nothing that can happen that can make it so old school God cannot use you and God cannot bring about salvation in your life Moses kills a guy and he goes out in the desert for another forty years. He learns to be a shepherd you learn how to survive in the desert as a shepherd all right he learns how to fire and shade it and he to the day he learns how to find water for a flock you learn he learns a lot of the skills he would need for the back third of his life leading his people as they are in a desert. You can see it God prepares Moses even when Moses isn't necessarily looking to God. For that but it's important to realize Moses is at least eighty by the time that this ends up day and that's really important for us as we keep going all right so most of us now by this point time when we're about to do this Moses is gone and the ten plagues of happen in Egypt which is just a crazy defense ration of God's power Moses has led the Hebrews through the Red Sea which is a again another incredible difference ration they have seen man actually come from heaven they're seeing quite old come from heaven they've seen all of these things God's miraculous provision over and over and over again they see God working in just ways that are almost beyond understanding it's so amazing sometimes you see that and Moses begins this this trick where we pick this up Moses is leading his people that he's starting to get burned out and I want you to hear Moses in Exodus Chapter eighteen if you've got an electronic version of the Bible I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation If you've got your own favorite That's also true but that's where we're at if not Exodus Chapter eight eighteen verse one says most is father in law Jethro the priest is video heard about everything God had done for most of his people the Israel lives you heard especially about how the Lord had rescued him from Egypt so Moses has a father in law right because he's married and so he's married to the daughter of the high priest of Midian and as Moses is going into Egypt there is this weird encounter that Moses has with God and we see this this strange interaction that happened between Moses and his wife and then voles this for whatever reason since his wife and his two boys back to be with her father now we don't have we don't know exactly why that is we don't know exactly what that means we just know that he is that danger or B. And we don't understand exactly why that happened but Jethro hears that Moses is now out of Egypt. He hears that God is providing miraculously who are the the Hebrews and he brings his wives of Torah and his two boys back to him and he wants to be here and you can see in this time we're going to pick it up again in verse thirteen the most just begins to tell his father in law all about what God is doing you begin to tell him what's happening on all of this story and then the next day verse thirteen the next day Moses took his seat to hear the people's disputes against each other they waited before him from morning till evening. That's one right I mean like I don't like that person so often I go tot to president of our country about why I don't like them. But that's really what's happening like the leader of that's like you having an fistfight with your neighbor and petitioning our current president to go talk to him about it. Sounds like a good system right he listens to everyone verse fourteen are they waiting for him from morning till evening verse fourteen when Moses father in law saw all the villages was doing for the people he has what are you a listen here why are you trying to do all this alone while everyone stands around you from morning till evening is like listen you're working from dawn till dusk and everybody's waiting in these huge lines and there's all kinds of people sitting around this waiting for you what do you think you're accomplishing verse fifteen most replied because the people come to be to get a ruling from God When a dispute arises they come to me and I am the one who settles the keys between poorly parties either form the people of Gaza decrees and give them his instructions verse seventeen probably the best words Moses ever heard in his life. This is not good. Right I mean his father looks at his father in law looks out of and says Vols this this is not the way to lead. A Moses is. How all. At least eighty. And his father in law who most people love beyond all words of measure. Says Moses what you're doing. It's not right it's not good. You're going to wear yourself out of the people to verse eighteen this job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself now listen to me let me give you a word of advice and may God be with you you should continue to be the people's representatives before God there's disputes if teach them God's decrees and give them his instructions show them how to conduct their lives but

select from all the people some capable honest man and move you're going to need Dr we're going to visit with your smaller groups of one thousand one hundred fifty and then they should always able to solve the people's common just views but how they bring the major cases you know the leaders desired to smaller matters themselves they will help you carry the load making the task easier for you if you talk all this advice and if God commands you to do so then you will be able to enjoy the pressures and all of these people will go home and being verse twenty four is to most important person out of everything if we just read the Moses listen to just father in law of the device and followed his suggestions. Just throw understood what it meant to lead Jethro a bit high priest we don't know for how long but he's been in leadership for a long time. And he walks out of this scene where there's one leader trying to do every day where Moses is trying to do everything all by itself for a nation most like a lot of people number this as the years as are leaving Egypt in the hundreds of thousands some people might even say a million people are following all of this time and he is sitting down and listening to every argument. People are burning out as they wait in lines and it's going to burn Moses out eventually and yes for us as Moses. This isn't the right. To this eighty year old man. Who's been raised in a palace who's been used to live on his own. Who's doing things his own way at this point in time. Somebody comes along and said hey. It's not the best way. Let me give you a way that will help you and everybody else. Oh just listen to this and took his advice here's my question Are you want a relationship right now that helps you grow spiritually. Are you in a relationship that challenges you and I want to take this a step further if you're married in this place or you want a relationship outside of your wife or your husband that helps you to grow spiritually your spouse should help you grow that should be a give it. What are you in a relationship where somebody has the authority and the right to speak into your life where there are areas that you need to grow do you have those relationships are you intentional about having those relationships with somebody who challenges you who makes you be better who makes you grow in your relationship with God Moses was eighty. And I was still somebody in his life that had that right. It was still somebody in his life that had the chance to speak into his life growth. Took the advice he applied to. Listen if you don't have that in your life I want to tell you you will reach a point where you're free just how levels are where your growth. Is kind of levels up I'm not saying that it will happen right away I'm not saying that you can't grow by yourself for a time don't mistake anything I'm just saying. What I'm saying is we all have areas in our lives that we don't see right we all have a certain thing that happens in our life that we just can't see without somebody else looking into that and saying I see this issue and it needs to change if you want to grow. And if you're not intentionally finding those relationships and giving people permission to speak to you then your relationship with God it will it will level off. And you know I'm not saying that you won't go to heaven don't go mystic what I'm saying I'm just saying that your growth will reach a point where you can grow more by yourself. And will stop. If Moses is an eighty year old man. Still giving permission to his father in law still hearing advice and growing. So what's our discipleship model part one is good in a relationship that helps you get in a relationship that helps you grow. If you want to be desired hold it in a relationship that helps you to grow. Here's one issue guys you would not sometimes do and I want to I want to just talk about this for a second sometimes we try to find the like you know the word mentorship is really a big deal right now at least it in ministerial circles is word mentorship is a big deal and so we look for one person that can mentor us in every area that we have. Right and I want to tell you that that's that's a fool's errand. Because there are areas that you need more help than others and there's probably not one person that's going to look at all things and feel all those goals I have different people that I talk to that help me be a better pastor I have different people that I've talked to that help me learn how to be a better boss I have different people that I've talked to that have that have the ability to speak into my life that that call me out on on spiritual issues I have a group of probably about five or six people that I have specifically given permission to speak into. I live those things. Because I need help because I don't see all my weaknesses because sometimes I just get going in a groove and somebody needs a call to get out that things aren't what they should be it's not one person it's a group of people and I thought that I know I know that I'm not as old as some of you

here and I'll Some of you look at me a thing I'm older than dirt it's it's funny how all that happens right depending on what or what age you are but age is not the determining factor in this there are people that are younger than me that I talk to about theological issues because they have a better understanding. Of original languages and. There are some people that are older than me that's I talk to about different things age is not the determining factor determining factors who's helping you throw. To Moses still not people in his life. That did that for. People in his life is eighty years old that's. Growth into his life I want to turn my head a little bit exodus. After twenty four. And talk about the next steps in Exodus Chapter twenty four. Star In verse twelve so there is realize I've been moving along and been talking they've they've been they've been going to this ng and they've come to the mountain where God is going to give them the the stone tablets the Ten Commandments right they get to this point where there's actually cools depending on the translation it says that God basically introduces himself to the leaders of Israel Life is such a cool thing if you haven't missed that before read Exodus twenty three and twenty four God introduces himself to the leaders outside of Moses and big big companies know who God is but then God says Moses I want you to come to the mountain I'm going to give you the commandments I want to speak to you what we what what. It's to happen for this that temple or five tabernacle of this time I'm sorry I'm going to talk to you about leadership I want to talk to you about these things so he calls Moses and he tells them to come and Exodus after twenty four verse twelve the Lord said to Moses come up to me on the mountain stay there and I will give you the tablets of stone which I've been scribed the instructions and commands so you can teach the people first thirteen so Moses and. His assistant Joshua set out. And Moses climbed up the mountain of God Moses told the elders stay here and wait for. Us. Until. We come back. Karen and her are here with you if anyone has of this view while I am gonna consult with them then Moses lived at the mouth and the cloud covered it and the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai and the cloud covered it for six days on the seventh into a lord called Moses from inside the club most of us read this and we just see Moses went up right but is that what the text says that Moses went up on the mound by himself is that with the text that. Some people think I might be making to look at the a lot of a couple little letters Melissa and those words of the same in Aramaic is they are here is plural we're. All right these words are pulled most just took Josh one of them out and so most of you if I talk about the Ten Commandments write a lot of you who are particularly older you think of Charlton Heston right it is big gray beard staring on a mountain all by absolved in that classic movie right I mean he's up there than Superman is we that's kind of. Like it or not a lot of us have that kind of idea but this is not Moses took Joshua Well you want to little bit more look at verse or Chapter thirty two first chapters twenty four thirty two you read this long set of instructions that Moses gets all the details they need for the tabernacle how to. How to do certain things I mean it is in our own ball Louisville ball list of stuff and then God for whatever reason put it in scripture any repeats in a good as they actually built it I think it's crazy anyway were to skip a chapter thirty two verse first verse fifty. Then Moses turned and went down the mountain he held in his hands the two stone tablets described was in terms of the covenant it works thrived on post front back these tablets were God's work the words on the one written by God Himself first seven. Joshua. Heard the boisterous noise of the people shouting below them. Them. He exclaimed so most of. It sounds like war in the Kunar But Moses replied No it's not a shout of victory nor the wailing of the feet I hear this hour it's a celebration and listen I want you to hear this this is not a message about the old calf this isn't a message about Moses going back on the mound that's now we're talking about here that we could go on ad nauseum about what all that means that we could talk about all that how all Israel had had seen God you know provide miraculously that year and see that none are on the mountain and instead of waiting for Moses they panic and they make their own Idol we could talk about that but that's not what we're talking about today what we're talking about is Joshua was there. Who led Israel after poses died. Do you think that this is an accident or. Do you think this is somehow just a big fluke the whole What a fortunate coincidence that Joshua heard from God. So amazing how God provides. Like it's an accident. Most of us is teaching Joshua exactly what he needs. To leave Israel after he's done all right I want you to skip ahead to. Thirty three. Verse seven.

Exodus Chapter thirty three verse that. It was Moses is practice to take the Tent of Meeting and set it up some distance from the camp everyone who wanted to make a request of the Lord would go to the tents and meeting outside the camp whenever Moses when I was in the tent of nearly all the people would get out and. Stand in the entrances of. Their own hands Moses goes to me with God and everybody else watches. Right that's when I say Moses is going to meet with God and everybody else watches. Day. They would all watch until Moses disappeared inside a person that has He went into the tent the pillar of cloud would come down and over at Stanford's while the Lord spoke with Moses when the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent they would stand invalid out in front of their own tents inside the terms of meeting the Lord would speak to Moses face to face as one speaks to a friend one of awesome things that must be. Right what is amazing moment. After a word Moses returned to the him. But the young man who assisted him Joshua the son of no. Would remain behind in the sense of media. Owners wasn't alone in the tent and I'm not just talking about him and God. Joshua is in that him. Hearing God speak to Moses face to face as somebody speaks to a friend. And when Moses leaves Joshua is not done yet. Moses is teaching Joshua. I believe he's teaching Joshua how to. How to talk they got out of being this president how to really lead instead of just telling people what to do. Moses has got Joshua with him now listen Israel would have been a lot better off if all of this leaders would have lived live like this. I mean if more of this hearings and more of it judges want to take in somebody along with them like Moses then we would have had a lot less up and down in there. But unfortunately they would have a great deal with them like three generations would come along and just do whatever they want mess everything up and then everyone came back came back and they do some good stuff in the next three or four or five things will just come along and do whatever they want to mess everything up because people weren't taking somebody along with them listen this is what we're talking about this is discipleship there was somebody that had a the ability to speak to them in a Moses of his life that helped him grow and he was guiding someone else in their growth. Growing guy. If you have relationships in your life where there is somebody who is helping you grow and you have relationships in your life where you are guiding somebody else along a path you will be more like you. It will help you grow to be more like. It will challenge your faith it will help you go on I can already hear some people out there making excuses right like they hear me say those words and are already making excuses I've never been formally trained. In the way I just met Jesus the way I don't really know anybody who doesn't already know God. Those are all. Excuses. That if you've never been formally trained if you know Jesus. You know more than somebody who doesn't know him. Start their. Guide them to that point. If you don't know anybody who doesn't already know Jesus that's a whole other problem and it's time for you to go meet somebody. This go introduce yourself to somebody in a Wal-Mart checkout and ask if they want to go have coffee all right you need to start somewhere. I don't think anyone any of us that's really a true state. It's just honest. But I don't have time I get it everybody busy. Everybody that. We find time for things that are also for. Our relationship with Jesus as I'm sort of top of that list is not the top of the list I would say it is not that out of that list. It's time to meet some of those things. This is not a complicated message in point it's not difficult. We need to have relationships that are with people that are helping us grow. And when you have relationships with people who were guided along. And if you do that. I guarantee you decide when you're. Guarantee you this I will do this other disciples it does not mean just growing in knowledge of biology discipleship growing a relationship with Jesus. Knowledge of theology is part of that simple. But it is not barometer is not the measure of the final measure of what being a disciple that will do for us all about I know a lot of people who know a ton about Scripture who don't believe good uses real. Knowledge of scripture is not the final test of whether or not you were follower of Jesus it is important I'm not running you down it's important. But there are a lot of very smart people who know a lot about the Bible and don't want anything to do with. Growing a relationship with you. Growing to be more like you know. That's what discipleship really was. Part of that can be restored. But most of that will always be visible. Through it. I can say that pretty confidently because that's what you see. Over and over and over again in Scripture. This is my belief. This is really what the

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Bible. All right so if you're going to do. You have a couple people healthy with I mean a really simple carve out I don't try to press anyone with my graphic designer ability because mostly I don't have a lot of that and he I don't care. That's not the point of this cargo while you with the graphic design OK This card is super simple and if a business card so you know why it's designed that like that so in your wallet or in your purse in a spot where your little credit card slide into where your credit cards are not of you credit card so will say death of cards live under those rules bots it'll fit right in there. OK it's built this out of a bit of a car so here's what I want you to do. You want to do this right now today. But over the course of the next couple of weeks I would like you to pray there's only two blanks in there if that's not enough for you flip it over. Into blacks is hard for you to do then start praying but I want you to choose at least one relationship for each side where you are going to purposefully and intentionally seek out somebody to help you grow. And you are going to purposefully intentionally seek out of money that you've got. A Right believe that this is vitally important to the life believe we are. Never been all this Christian for the come to it all Jesus and just sit in a chair in a church service once a week our faith has always been to be lived out practically to be lived out of among people. Is Zuch that important part. In our faces I just want to courage you I purposely told them not to use glossy stock so you can write on it with the same way you could even write on it with a pencil but I would urge you not to do that because I will eventually run on a right it's not hard it's not complicated Who in your life you want to go crazy seek out. Who in your life are you a chance only got it now listen to me. This is not me telling you to go find some he on and you can boss around. OK you need to do whatever it is or else you're not really growing you Jesus that's not what we're talking about. Who also you intentionally. Share your faith with a way that helps them grow. To such an important thing this is so practical such as if this is not my idea isn't something that's that's we worked on this growing guy thing it's funny how long it took ten of us of a fable to come up with the wrong guy. But this is kind of where we came up with that little thing but I'm sure somebody else uses it as well. This is just a practical thing. Who's helping you grow. Who are you going to know. What real disciples of.