

Go and Equip
Episode 207
Chandalee and Jenn
Talmid

00:00:04:10 - 00:00:33:05

Chandalee

Welcome to the podcast today. Jen and I are talking about being talmidim today, that is learner's, specifically in our context, learners of Jesus. We're going to be talking about some passages out of the Old Testament, some out of the New Testament, and what we've learned about being talmidim. Listen in and enjoy. Welcome back. We're glad to be with you today.

00:00:33:17 - 00:00:35:23

Jenn

Welcome, everyone, to the podcast.

00:00:36:09 - 00:00:57:22

Chandalee

We are talking about talmid or talmidim today. To begin, we're going to talk about a little concept that we kind of touched on with Lois a couple of weeks ago called stringing the pearls together in her book, sitting at the feet of Rabbi Jesus. She says, Having said that, it's difficult to overestimate the love that rabbis had for their Bible.

00:00:57:24 - 00:01:27:03

Chandalee

On a good day, they would link text after text after text. A story is told about Ben Azi, a rabbi from the early second century. One day when Ben, as I was teaching it, is said that the fire flashed around him. He was setting his audience ablaze with his preaching. When someone asked him what his secret was, he replied, I was linking up the words of the Torah with one another, and in the words of the prophets and the prophets with the writings and the words rejoiced as on the day they were delivered from Sinai.

00:01:27:15 - 00:01:49:16

Chandalee

And were they not originally delivered from Sinai in fire? Ben, as I was said, to be stringing pearls, bringing together passages from different places in order to explore their great truths. When he did this, it was as if the words themselves became so excited to be together that they burst into flames. We see Jesus do this all the way through the New Testament.

00:01:49:17 - 00:02:07:19

Chandalee

Yes, he continually links back to things in the Old Testament. So as we are looking today, we're going to link some things from the Old Testament and the New Testament and talking about how to be. Tell me or tell me Dar as our our case because that's feminine. How, how we do that, how we live that out.

00:02:07:29 - 00:02:31:03

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Jenn

Awesome. Yes. It is exciting to see how scripture, as we've talked about on here many times that it links together from the beginning to the end. There is a common thread that runs through and we get to see that played out when when Jesus teaches and, and those pearls come together from Old Testament. New Testament. And it's, it's a beautiful thing how it all works together.

00:02:31:03 - 00:02:31:25

Jenn

It's all connected.

00:02:31:25 - 00:02:37:19

Chandalee

All connected. We've been saying that for a year and a half now, and I think we will probably go to our graves saying that.

00:02:37:19 - 00:02:37:29

Jenn

Yes.

00:02:38:26 - 00:02:59:17

Chandalee

So the word talmid is the Hebrew word for student or learner. That word is actually from the root word, lamad, which has the connotation of being, learning and teaching. Hmm. It's not just one or the other. We tend to end here in the West. Want to say, Oh, well, we learn something, and that's the end of it.

00:02:59:17 - 00:03:12:20

Chandalee

Or We teach something and that's the end of it. Now, this word encompasses both. And so as a talmid, as a learner, we are expected to learn and take it in, but then we're expected to pass it on.

00:03:12:25 - 00:03:15:16

Jenn

That sounds a lot like what we talk about with disciples.

00:03:15:23 - 00:03:41:29

Chandalee

Yes, it is. And that's that's the big part that we're going to talk about today is discipleship and how do we live that out? One of my favorite Bible teachers, Christie McClellan, has a quote that she says that you've not really learned something until you can pass it on and you can teach it to somebody else. Which is true, because if I don't know how to do something in the kitchen, if I don't know how to cook a meal, I can't possibly teach my kids how to cook it.

00:03:42:12 - 00:03:48:20

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Chandalee

If I don't know how to do a task. I can't teach someone else how to do that task until I've learned it myself.

00:03:48:21 - 00:04:02:14

Jenn

Sure. Yeah. It's a that's a very practical way to look at it. Mean even maybe doing, like, math problems or something when you're with your kids or until you actually do it and then show them how to do it. Yeah. You're not sure if you've quite learned what to do.

00:04:02:24 - 00:04:05:14

Chandalee

Taking that to a scriptural standpoint.

00:04:05:22 - 00:04:05:28

Speaker 3

Mm.

00:04:06:05 - 00:04:09:00

Chandalee

How can we pass on the word if we don't know the word?

00:04:09:02 - 00:04:09:11

Speaker 3

Hmm.

00:04:09:28 - 00:04:25:17

Chandalee

We're never going to know all of it. But God teaches us something every single day in His Word when we come to it. And as he is teaching us more and more and more, the Spirit uses that to pour out to other people around us. But we have to learn it. We have to be in it. We have to study it and grow in it.

00:04:25:17 - 00:04:28:13

Chandalee

And we grow best when we have accountability, don't we?

00:04:28:14 - 00:04:34:02

Jenn

Yes, absolutely. It's always nice to have someone who's pushing you and questioning you and and. Yeah.

00:04:34:10 - 00:04:57:01

Chandalee

Yeah. And the term for that is hover or hovering when it's a group. We talked about that briefly with Lois, and that is like a study partner, somebody, a friend, a friend

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to study with. The way that stringing the pearls together here as we even get started is looking back to Harvard or hovering that idea of studying together, learning together.

00:04:57:01 - 00:05:23:03

Chandalee

It spurs each other on it, challenges us. It's shown in the Old Testament in Proverbs 27, 17. It says, as iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend. We can't do it alone, guys. We're not meant to do it alone. God. And the very beginning saw that it was not good for man to be alone. Right. And he gave a companion that was there to stand side by side in face to face, contending for the lay of the Lord together.

00:05:23:03 - 00:05:26:03

Chandalee

And we're to do that here still today.

00:05:26:07 - 00:05:33:07

Jenn

Yes. And when we can talk through scripture and learn from each other, that's how we grow. It's how we grow lately.

00:05:33:07 - 00:05:56:17

Chandalee

Absolutely. In the first century, Jesus modeled a form of apprenticeship for his disciples that the disciples were asked to follow him. And then they left everything. They followed him to learn his teaching, to learn how he interacted with people, how he loved people. And they did that by being with him. 24 seven.

00:05:56:19 - 00:06:16:25

Jenn

So that's why we got like the disciples who were fishermen and he would say, Come follow me. And I'll make you fishermen. And they would leave. They just left everything and took off. Or Matthew, who was a tax collector, he just dropped what he was doing and took off with Jesus to follow him. Yeah, because this was a commitment.

00:06:16:27 - 00:06:24:29

Chandalee

It was a commitment of change. Unusual concept for them in this day. It's really unusual for us to say, Oh, I'm just going to drop everything and take off.

00:06:24:29 - 00:06:25:10

Jenn

Yeah.

00:06:25:23 - 00:06:45:21

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Chandalee

You know, college students insider 20 somethings inside who just decide to pick up and move to the other side of the world. Right, right. But in general, today in the West, we don't do that. We have to have a plan and you have to have everything laid out. But there are still apprenticeship programs that we follow here in America.

00:06:45:25 - 00:06:55:04

Jenn

True? Yeah. Like I could think of maybe a hairstylist. Sometimes you go and you you have to put in several hours in order to get certified and.

00:06:55:09 - 00:06:58:23

Chandalee

Linemen and then they go and do apprenticeships.

00:06:58:23 - 00:07:05:12

Jenn

And you're just watching and learning from professionals who've already gone that route. Yeah, it takes a while.

00:07:05:16 - 00:07:17:07

Chandalee

If apprenticeship is valued here for jobs, for for technical skills, how much more important is it for us as believers to live in an apprenticeship model with Jesus?

00:07:17:14 - 00:07:23:19

Jenn

Right. To to give up everything and follow him completely. Yeah. To put in the time to put in. And the intentionality.

00:07:23:19 - 00:07:24:17

Chandalee

And the intention of.

00:07:24:17 - 00:07:25:06

Speaker 3

It. Mm hmm.

00:07:26:05 - 00:07:40:11

Chandalee

There's a quote from Heat from a website called Hebrew for Christians. And it says, Education is therefore foundational to being a disciple of the Messiah. And the Great Commission is for each of us to share his teaching with others. That straight out of Matthew 28, 19 and beyond.

00:07:40:26 - 00:07:41:04

Jenn

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Yeah.

00:07:42:03 - 00:08:03:25

Chandalee

We have to be in heaven. We have to have people that we're studying with, people that were growing with. But our focus is not us. Our focus is not what we're doing, how we're doing it. Our focus is on a relationship with Jesus, and it has to be that kind of focus. Mm hmm. We see this example in the Old Testament again.

00:08:03:25 - 00:08:26:16

Chandalee

We're going to going to string some pearls here. Elijah. Elijah and Elijah. We're gonna go back to their story and first kings. Elijah had gotten it cross hairs with Ahab and Jezebel. He had told them what was wrong. He had confronted the prophets of veil and Ahab, went to Jezebel and told her all that Elijah had done, and she lost it.

00:08:26:24 - 00:08:49:08

Chandalee

She says in verse one of 19, she sent a messenger to Elijah with this warning. May the gods judge me severely. If by this time tomorrow, I do not take your life as you did theirs. Meeting the prophets of bail. So she was livid with Elijah. Elijah became scared and he ran. And he took off into Beersheba, into the wilderness by himself.

00:08:49:19 - 00:09:17:21

Chandalee

Mm hmm. He ended up in a cave. God came to him and spoke to him. And these are the words that God said to him. I'm going to jump in the very end of them. And it says, Elijah, son of Shabbat from Abel Metula, to take your place as prophet. So he's God is instructing Elijah to set up one to take his place, which is the the the first century model of Talmud.

00:09:18:00 - 00:09:18:09

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:09:18:10 - 00:09:38:21

Chandalee

With a rabbi and a student. Because Elijah was the rabbi. Elijah was the student that was coming along and going to learn from him. Continuing on in verse 19, it says, Elijah went from there and found Elijah, son of said he was plowing with 12 pairs of oxen. He was near the 12th pair. Elijah passed by him and threw his robe over him.

00:09:38:29 - 00:09:58:12

Chandalee

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He left the oxen, meaning Elijah ran after Elijah and said, Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye. Then I will follow you. Elijah said to him, Go back. Indeed. What have I done to you? Elijah went back and took his pair of oxen in, slaughtered them. He cooked the meat over a fire that he made by burning the harness and yoke.

00:09:58:26 - 00:10:22:02

Chandalee

He gave the people meat and they ate. Then he got up and followed Elijah and become became his assistant. We see a couple of things here. Elijah promptly sacrificed everything. Yes. He asked to go back and say goodbye. But in doing so, he was providing for his family. He. He killed the oxen and gave them the meat. He also took his livelihood.

00:10:22:05 - 00:10:43:02

Chandalee

How he was making a living was through those oxen and through the yoke that was over them and burned it to be able to sacrifice them. Then he walked away from his family, his home. He just walked away from everything. I love this quote. It says that clearly Elijah hadn't just acquired a new hobby or signed up for an evening Sunday school class.

00:10:43:08 - 00:10:46:18

Chandalee

He could skip whenever life was too busy. He was all in.

00:10:46:19 - 00:10:47:16

Jenn

Yeah. All.

00:10:47:16 - 00:10:53:11

Chandalee

It was all in with everything that he had. He gave it all up and went.

00:10:53:17 - 00:10:54:09

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:10:54:16 - 00:11:18:07

Chandalee

Discipleship is about that alion. It's about giving everything that we have and walking away from our current life. Yes. That might. Might not mean that you walk out of your home. It might not mean that you sell your car. But it means a heart transformation. Yes, God is asking for discipline in our lives of being in the Word and the spiritual rhythms of prayer and in some other things.

00:11:18:21 - 00:11:24:16

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Chandalee

But it's about that transformation that we're allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our life, to make us more like Christ.

00:11:24:22 - 00:11:37:13

Jenn

Right. You know that picture of Elijah, you know, burning everything. And it was definitely a commitment that he was heading into and not a hobby. I like that quote. I was good.

00:11:37:21 - 00:11:43:04

Chandalee

Because so many times, things in our spiritual life take second place.

00:11:43:06 - 00:11:44:12

Jenn

Mm hmm. And they're not.

00:11:44:12 - 00:11:50:21

Chandalee

Priority. They're not priorities. They. They're easily passed on if something better comes along or something that we think is more important.

00:11:51:01 - 00:11:51:12

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:11:52:02 - 00:12:14:15

Chandalee

But the spiritual disciplines that we must enact to be in a relationship and grow close to Jesus are the things that we have to do on a regular basis if we keep putting things off. Our relationship with him can't grow. Right. Right. As a disciple, they accorded as much or more respect for their rabbi as they did for their own biological father.

00:12:14:27 - 00:12:15:29

Jenn

That's a lot of respect.

00:12:16:05 - 00:12:28:22

Chandalee

That is a lot of respect. And the rabbi felt the same. There's a quote by a rabbi that Lois mentions in her book. She says, If a disciple is sent into exile, his rabbi should go with him.

00:12:29:10 - 00:12:31:05

Jenn

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Yeah, that sounds like commitment to you.

00:12:31:06 - 00:12:39:01

Chandalee

Yes, it's a commitment that goes both ways that we have to submit that he's going to follow and he's going to do everything he can to build a.

00:12:39:03 - 00:12:39:13

Jenn

Solid.

00:12:40:09 - 00:12:40:28

Chandalee

Picture of.

00:12:41:07 - 00:12:42:15

Jenn

Jesus Jesus.

00:12:42:17 - 00:12:53:09

Chandalee

I mean, it just is it's a beautiful, deeper, fuller understanding of our relationship with Jesus when we look at him as a rabbi in this context, in this perspective.

00:12:53:15 - 00:12:53:27

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:12:55:01 - 00:13:14:25

Chandalee

Another pearl that we're going to talk about is in the New Testament. Chapter 22 of Luke, verse 24 says A dispute started among them, meaning the disciples over which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. So Jesus said to them, The Kings of the Gentiles lorded over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors.

00:13:14:26 - 00:13:34:06

Chandalee

Not so with you. Instead, the one who is greatest must become like the youngest in the leader. Like the one who serves for who is greater, the one who is seated at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is seated at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are the ones who remained with me in my trials.

00:13:34:16 - 00:13:58:10

Chandalee

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Thus, I grant to you a kingdom, just as my father greeted me that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones. Judging the 12 tribes of Israel. So they're there jockeying for position. They're trying to say, Oh, I'm I've done this, I've done this. You know, in our modern times, I went to Sunday school, I went to church, I went to choir, I went to Wednesday Bible study.

00:13:58:22 - 00:14:09:05

Chandalee

I checked off reading. Every day that you're reading through the Bible. I checked off memorizing this week. These are things that we do and want to put up. There is look at me. Look at me. Look what I did.

00:14:09:13 - 00:14:09:21

Speaker 3

Mm.

00:14:09:28 - 00:14:16:02

Chandalee

Instead of are we humbling ourselves before him and saying, How do you want to make me more like you?

00:14:16:10 - 00:14:25:28

Jenn

Right, right. Yeah. And I think that's a very human response. We just we want to we want to know that we're checking off the list and that we're doing all that we can to be good.

00:14:26:07 - 00:14:43:07

Chandalee

And, you know, the list is the list is valid. The list is a good expectation of what we can do to grow our relationship with Jesus. Because the more we're in the world, the more we pray and talk with him, the more we're going to understand him and know him and be more like him.

00:14:43:10 - 00:14:43:21

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:14:44:07 - 00:14:45:24

Chandalee

But that's not that's not the.

00:14:46:16 - 00:14:48:07

Jenn

It's not about the knowledge.

00:14:48:07 - 00:14:50:06

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Chandalee

Not about the knowledge. It's about the transformation.

00:14:50:07 - 00:15:00:03

Jenn

Right. Right. And if we continually just take in information. But there's never any life change, then, or we're getting nowhere. We're benefiting no one. Right. Yeah.

00:15:01:14 - 00:15:22:28

Chandalee

Let's flip over to Matthew 11 real quick. Versus 29 to 30 says, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Mm hmm. So if we go back to Elijah and Elijah at the very beginning, we see that Ali'i share burned his yoke.

00:15:23:13 - 00:15:33:07

Chandalee

He burned the yoke of his oxen, which was a heavy wooden contraption that they put on top of the yoke to connect two of them so that they would go in the same direction to.

00:15:33:07 - 00:15:34:19

Jenn

Put on top of the oxen.

00:15:34:19 - 00:16:00:23

Chandalee

Yes, to put on top of the oxen so that they would go in the same direction, so that one would pull one direction and one pull another. They would both be able to pull and move plows and carts in different things in the same direction with their strength. That's a very hard, hard illustration of a yoke here. Jesus is saying My yoke is light, my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

00:16:01:00 - 00:16:01:10

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:16:01:19 - 00:16:07:18

Chandalee

For a long time, I didn't understand that phrase in there, because when my mine heard Yoke, I went to Ox.

00:16:07:24 - 00:16:08:05

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

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00:16:08:06 - 00:16:33:01

Chandalee

And the yoke that goes on their shoulders, on their back. This was a very Hebraic thing that I didn't understand until maybe four or five years ago, when a rabbi talked about his yoke. He was talking about his teachings. He was talking about the things in the way that he interpreted scripture, not a wooden structure, a wooden contraption that was on top of their shoulders.

00:16:33:01 - 00:16:52:25

Chandalee

Because my mind immediately went to that. Sure, sure. But that's not what they mean. They mean that they're teaching. Mm hmm. He meant his teaching, his light, other rabbis. Their teaching was still heavy because they were teaching the law. Right. They were teaching the law that we're not able to keep. Right. Hundreds and hundreds of laws that we physically cannot keep.

00:16:52:25 - 00:16:56:22

Jenn

And they were adding to it. Yes. Yeah. Making it even harder.

00:16:56:23 - 00:17:11:02

Chandalee

Absolutely. So their yoke was hard and heavy according to what Jesus was, in contrast to what Jesus was teaching because he was teaching himself. Mm. And he was teaching that he was the.

00:17:11:05 - 00:17:12:29

Jenn

Fulfillment of the law.

00:17:57:00 - 00:18:20:07

Jenn

It's easy and light, and I like that way. Better to be hard and heavy and just lately. Yeah. Yeah. And one of the verses we've been learning in our Bible study is first, John, five three. Loving God means keeping his commandments and his commandments aren't burdensome. So, yeah, I mean, the things that he asks us to do, we can we can see them.

00:18:20:07 - 00:18:34:17

Jenn

We can know that they are meant for our good and for and to keep us safe and to give us the best life possible. They're not meant to be burdensome. They're meant to be be light and easy. And with the Holy Spirit, that is possible.

00:18:34:27 - 00:18:57:17

Chandalee

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Absolutely. So how do we live out being disciples today? Jenn and I have both been in discipleship groups over the years. We have worked with other women and encourage them to be disciple makers as well. We don't make disciples of ourselves. No, we don't say, okay, you guys do exactly what I do because I've got it all figured out, right?

00:18:57:19 - 00:19:23:14

Chandalee

Because we don't. Our goal is to point people to Christ. In John 1:36-37, John the Baptist was standing talking to two of his disciples, and he said, "Behold," he looked off in the distance and said, "Behold the LAMB of God who takes away the sin of the world." And in verse 37, John's two disciples immediately went to follow Jesus.

00:19:24:03 - 00:19:36:22

Chandalee

Yes, that's what discipleship should be. Yeah, that we are pointing to the one. And we can say, Behold the LAMB of God who takes away the sin of the world and people want to hear and to follow him.

00:19:36:25 - 00:19:53:00

Jenn

Yes. And it makes me think of that when the disciples when people would hear them talk, they would they would take note that they had been with Jesus. And that's the thing you want to when you're with people, that's you want to always point them back to the Lord. Absolutely.

00:19:53:00 - 00:20:23:08

Chandalee

Yeah, absolutely. I hope that today's conversation has been a little bit enlightening on what being a talmid or a talmidah is and what that means and how that looks in our lives. And as we close, we just like to quote Romans 12 one and to therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice alive, wholly and pleasing to God, which is a reasonable service.

00:20:23:24 - 00:20:47:23

Chandalee

Don't be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may test and approve what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. That's our lot. That's our life as disciples. We point to Jesus and we don't let this world conform our hearts and our minds because we're renewing it through Scripture.

00:20:47:28 - 00:20:48:07

Speaker 3

Mm hmm.

00:20:48:12 - 00:20:49:12

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Chandalee
To be more like him.

00:20:49:16 - 00:21:00:20

Jenn

Yes. And just allowing the Holy Spirit to make that. That yoke. Remember, the yoke is easy and light is trusting him, following him. His commandments are not burdensome. Absolutely not.

00:21:02:02 - 00:21:04:10

Chandalee

Have a great day and we'll catch you next time. Bye bye.