



What do you want? That's the question. It is the first, last, and most fundamental question of Christian discipleship. In the Gospel of John, it is the first question Jesus poses to those who would follow him.

It's the question that is buried under almost every other question Jesus asks of each of us. "*Will you come and follow me?*" is another version of "*What do you want?*," as is the fundamental question Jesus asks of his errant disciple, Peter: "*Do you love me?*" (John 21:16)

Jesus doesn't encounter Matthew and John--or you and me--and ask, "What do you know?" He doesn't even ask, "*What do you believe?*" He asks, "*What do you want?*" This is the most incisive, piercing question Jesus can ask of us precisely because we are what we want. Our wants and longings and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behaviour flow. . . Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love.

So discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. Jesus' command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his--to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all . . .

Jesus is a teacher who doesn't just inform our intellect but forms our very loves.

- James K.A. Smit, excerpted from *You Are What You Love*

- What stands out to you in this excerpt?
- What do you agree with? What do you disagree with?
- What would you be interested in talking about further?
- What does this tell you about your own thoughts on how deep the gospel has rooted itself in your heart?