

Personal Discipleship (Mentoring)

Introduction:

- Jesus' ministry to the masses is clearly recorded in the witness of the four gospels. It cannot be denied that Jesus had a ministry to multitudes. Jesus proclaimed the reality of His Messianic work by quoting from Isaiah 61:1-2

Luk 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

Luk 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

Luk 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- This is how the Lord Jesus served among the masses. He proclaimed the gospel of His kingdom, He preached spiritual freedom, spiritual sight, and spiritual liberty through His message. He also worked through many miracles in which he literally gave sight to the blind and healed from sickness and raised the dead. Eventually, He would go to the cross to be the sacrifice for sin so that those who would believe would receive the reality of His message.

- But, we must also notice that Jesus did not ONLY focus on the masses, but also gave attention to the few. He hand picked specific disciples on whom He built the foundation for the church. Jesus gives us the example of the importance of the specific focus on the few in order to build and equip them for the benefit of the whole church. Jesus knew that men were needed to teach, guide, and lead the church. So, He gave special attention to the development of the few for this task. Jesus is our example in the development of leaders and future disciplers. In God's calling for us to make disciples, we must understand that it does not only involve preaching to the masses, but will require one-on-one mentoring.

- Today we are going to look at how Christ formed the apostle Paul into a one-on-one mentor to his disciple Timothy, and see what principles we glean from his example for our own personal discipleships.

Context:

- This letter serves as a sort of "last will and Testament" of Paul to his spiritual son, Timothy. Paul wrote this epistle from a Roman prison, most likely awaiting execution (2 Tim 4:6-8). Only a few months later from writing his letter, Paul would be put to death in 68 A.D.

- In his letter, Paul instructs Timothy out of his fatherly concern for him. Timothy is facing very difficult times as a church leader. The church is facing the great persecution under Emperor Nero who has outlawed Christianity in the Empire. The church lives in constant fear from the Roman government. . Therefore, Paul encourages, reminds, and charges Timothy to continue in his gospel work. The letter is Paul's final words in passing on the responsibility of the gospel ministry even in the midst of a dark time.

I. Forge authentic relationships with your disciples

2Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

2Ti 1:2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

*2Ti 1:3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as **I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.***

2Ti 1:4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.

- Paul described Timothy as “my beloved son”
 - sense of closeness and intimacy, Paul and Timothy shared in such a close relationship he could describe him as his own child in a spiritual sense; Paul had spiritually cared and raised Timothy in the truth; much like a father
 - discipleships that merely involve the transfer of information, simply teaching with no affection is NOT the kind of discipleship seen in Scripture. Paul LOVED Timothy
- Paul’ love for Timothy also led him to continual thanks to God in His prayers for him
 - constantly = continuous, without interruption; true intimate discipleship will involve that your disciple will be on your mind. Your love will lead you to remember them in prayer and thanks to God for them.
 - Love expresses itself by bringing supplication on behalf of another; this was a natural, unceasing implication of Paul’s discipleship of Timothy
- Paul helped shoulder the hardships and pains with his disciple. Paul compassionately remembered and shared Timothy’s tears in his turmoil and therefore LONGED to be with him; A discipler does not want the keeps his distance from disciples, but comes near and shares in their experiences, whether joyful or painful.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Application:

- Do you foster a close and intimate relationship with your disciple? Or is it cold and business like?
- Does your love for your disciple lead you to continuous thoughts of them, that bring you to thanks and prayer?
- Do you openly share in the joys and pains of your disciples?

II. Seek to equip and exhort your disciples to service

2Ti 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

2Ti 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

2Ti 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2Ti 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

2Ti 1:9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

2Ti 1:10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

2Ti 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

2Ti 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

- Paul was reminded of Timothy's sincere faith, which led him to remind Timothy to "rekindle" the gift that God gave Him. God is not so weak as to let his gifts within us to die out. God does not intend to give us gifts that we will waste. God intends for us to use them, and we must be confident that God wants us to use them. Paul writes to bring courage to Timothy to use what God gave to him.

- This is what we must do with our disciples. We must nurture, build up, and then give expression to the gifts that God has given them.

*2Ti 1:7 for God gave us **a spirit not of fear but of power** and love and self-control.*

2Ti 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

2Ti 1:9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

- another part of equipping and exhorting our disciples to service is to impart courage as we see Paul doing.

- notice that Paul does not point Timothy to confidence in himself, or in his gifts, but rather that it is God who grants a spirit of "power and love and self control." Since God's supplies us with such a Spirit, then we do not need to be afraid to share the suffering involved in service.

- Paul not only brings attention to the spirit of power, love and self control Timothy was given, but also to the majesty of the one who he serves - Christ Jesus who "called us to a holy calling." We must also foster courage in our disciples to service, not by pointing them to their strengths or their own agendas, but by showing how God supplies all we need for gospel ministry and that He is worthy to be worshipped through the gospel ministry.

III. Be an imitate-able example to your disciple

2Ti 1:10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

*2Ti 1:11 for which **I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,***

*2Ti 1:12 **which is why I suffer as I do.** But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.*

2Ti 1:13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 1:14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

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- Here Paul exclaims the privilege of being a gospel preacher. In v.10, Paul says Jesus "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light THROUGH THE GOSPEL." It is the great gospel of Jesus that "brought life and immortality to light." And it is that gospel that Paul has the privilege to preach! What a great honor!

- Since Paul carries such a great privilege, he gladly suffers and is unashamed for his ministry. Rather, he fully trusts that Christ can guard him to do the entrusted task to spread the gospel.

- In Paul's courageous, and joyful proclamation to stand for the example - he was serving as an example to Timothy who "was not given a spirit of fear" (1:7) and who went to Paul in "tears" (1:4). Paul presents Himself as the example of willing boldness to suffer in ministry that Timothy needs.

- We must do the same to our disciples. We must set an example for them to emulate. We will not be perfect, and we ought not to present ourselves as such. But we ought to present ourselves as ones who are willing to live courageously and obediently in dependence upon God's power.

2Ti 1:13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 1:14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

- Timothy is to pattern self after ; "the sound words" of Paul - the gospel is the standard which Timothy must fashion himself

- He also calls Timothy to pattern Himself after Paul's mission

- Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle and teacher (1:11); and entrusted with the gospel (1:12); in same way, Timothy was to "guard the good deposit entrusted to you."

IV. Charge your disciple to be a disciple-maker

2Ti 2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

2Ti 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- Finally, it would not be good enough for Timothy to simply be faithful in preaching the gospel. Paul clearly tells him in this passage that part of His charge as a faithful servant of Christ is to PASS ON the solemn mission to others.

A. The legacy

- Paul

2Ti 1:11 for which **I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,**
2Ti 1:12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that **he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.**

- Timothy

2Ti 1:14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, **guard the good deposit entrusted to you.**

1Ti 6:20 O Timothy, **guard the deposit entrusted to you.**

- faithful men

2Ti 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**

B. The qualifications

- faithful; men who are tested

Luk 16:10 "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

Luk 16:11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

Luk 16:12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

- if he is not faithful, then he cannot be trusted that he will be committed to raise up the next generation for the gospel ministry; the line would stop with him because the character of the man could not be trusted for the task

- able to teach

- both the message of the gospel
- teach to entrust the message

- if he cannot teach, then he will not be equipped to pass on the truth of the gospel to the next generation of gospel ministers; the line would stop with him because the purity and accuracy of the gospel would be compromised

C. The confidence

- the same word that Paul uses that says Christ "guards" Paul who has been entrusted the gospel, is the same word used of Timothy called to "guard" that which he has been entrusted. The reason we can be confident we will be able to faithfully guard and faithfully pass on the deposit of the gospel is because Christ himself "guards" us in the same way. Christ who guards us ensures that the gospel ministry will continued to be guarded and

DISCUSSION GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Consider the affection Paul shares with Timothy. Discuss ways you can foster the same kind of close relationship with those that you mentor.
2. In what ways can we help nurture, build up, embolden, and give opportunity to exercise the spiritual gifts of those that we mentor?
3. Consider your teaching, your faith, your love, and your calling. Are you confident that you can call those whom you disciple to pattern themselves after you in each way? How can we strive to be such an example in these areas?
4. How important is it for the legacy of gospel ministry be passed on? Why do you think the prime qualities of on given that trust is one who is "faithful" and can teach?