

## Discipleship Part 5 Being a Timothy

### 1. Review

- a. THE GREAT COMMISSION – Means to make Disciples.
- b. Matthew 28:19-20 “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”
- c. John McArthur points out “There’s only one verb in that whole sentence, one major verb. It’s the verb ‘make disciples.’ The word ‘going,’ the word ‘baptizing,’ and the word ‘teaching,’ are participles that modify the one main verb.”
  - i. Jesus was addressing His disciples, telling them to make disciples.
  - ii. This was to be the impetus of their lives from that day forward. Making disciples and teaching them ALL the things that “*I have commanded you.*”
  - iii. In this passage, the verb is in the second person plural – **you disciple**; first aorist tense imperative mood - *signifying instantaneous action or something to be undertaken at once* – **you do it now**; active voice – *indicating ongoing action* –
  - iv. Rephrase: “*as you are going about your interactions with others in your life actively disciple those you come in contact with.*”
- d. This is the imperative of the Christian life. We cannot do nothing. We need to be disciples, who are being disciplined and who are discipling others. It is a continuous process that should never stop, but actually increase in intensity as we grow older.
- e. **Share how the imperative has helped me to see that building stuff instead of PEOPLE was misguided.**

2. This morning I want to address what it means to “be a disciple” - that is a follower of Christ who is being molded into his Mentor’s image.
  - a. Most of us are aware of Paul’s disciple named Timothy. Timothy became a believer most likely during Paul’s first visit to Lystra. Lystra was a city where Paul experienced severe opposition during his first missionary journey, so severe that they actually stoned Paul and left him for dead! You can find out more about it in the book of Acts chapter 14 verses 1 through 20.
  - b. Some time later, perhaps several years later, Paul returned to Lystra. Acts 16:1-5 tells us what happened:
    - i. “*He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.*”
    - ii. **Paul observed Timothy’s spiritual gifts** -- gifts of ministry, perhaps of wisdom and of knowledge in the Scriptures, of teaching, of preaching. And Paul wanted to take Timothy with him, using the means of discipling which Jesus himself trained men, taking him along with them and teaching him as they ministered together. So he took him as an intern on the rest of his journey.
    - iii. I was asked last Sunday by a youth if I had any idea what her spiritual gifts were. I had to say no, because I had not observed her in a close enough or regular setting to observe her inclination toward the things of God. But Paul apparently did observe Timothy, and “he was well spoken of by the brothers.”

1. If I were to translate that, I would say if the youth leaders spoke so well of one of the youth and I had observed that youth's giftings...we would see a picture of Timothy begin to emerge.
  2. Timothy becomes Paul's closest traveling companion and ministry assistant even as he is being mentored. (think about it, how would you like to be chosen to be mentored or disciplined by the Apostle Paul?)
3. (1 Timothy 1:2) "*To Timothy, my true child in the faith*"
- a. What kind of relationship did Paul and Timothy have that would have led Paul to speak this way to Timothy?
  - b. Paul refers to Timothy as "my true child in the faith" (1 Tim. 1:2), "my son" (1:18), "my beloved child" (2 Tim. 1:2).
  - c. 1 Corinthians 4: 15-16 "*For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.*"
    - i. There is a parental type relationship of elder, mentor and father/mother to their disciple that each ought to see is a God-given relationship.
  - d. **In Paul's letters, he calls Timothy "a son" four times.**
  - e. Paul, just like a real father, so earnestly cared about him and encouraged him.
  - f. Paul also expressed "tough love" with him as well.
  - g. As I read Paul's letters, I can't help but feel that there is a big part of Timothy that wants an easier job at a different church.
    - i. Rather than just making it easier for him, Paul encourages him, gives him some advice, and corrects Timothy in his thinking.
    - ii. It is also no secret how much Timothy obviously respects the wisdom and experience of Paul. I think we specifically see this in Acts 16:3, after they have only been together a short while, Timothy lets Paul circumcise him so as to more effectively bring the Gospel to the Jews in the area. That is trust!!!
    - iii. Notice the language that Paul uses in Philippians 2:22. "*But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.*"
4. Being a Timothy:
- a. Talmid (Heb.) – Mathetes (Gr.) = **A Disciple is student or learner**
    - i. The New Testament uses the word disciple not only of Jesus' followers but also those who followed Moses (John 9:28), the Pharisees (Mark 2:18), John the Baptist (Mark 11:2) and of Paul (Acts 9:25).
    - ii. Disciple is one who has a desire to learn from His Master.
    - iii. **A Disciple is a learner** - One that attaches himself to a given teacher. The original word was used first of those that learned a trade under a master teacher. If you wanted to become a craftsman in a certain trade in biblical times you would apprentice yourself under the discipline and instruction of a master craftsman of that trade.
      1. Luke 11:1 "*Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*
  - b. There is a difference between being a student and being a disciple. A student may learn things from his teacher but not fully believe those teachings. Whereas a disciple believes and acts upon those teachings and examples of his mentor.
    - i. In the movie Karate Kid, young Daniel asks Mister Miagi to teach him karate. Miagi agrees under one condition: Daniel must submit totally to his instruction and never question his methods. Daniel shows up the next day eager to learn. To his chagrin, Mister

Miagi has him paint a fence. Miagi demonstrates the precise motion for the job: up and down, up and down. Daniel takes days to finish the job. Next, Miagi has him scrub the deck using a prescribed stroke. Again the job takes days. Daniel wonders, What does this have to do with karate? but he says nothing. Next, Miagi tells Daniel to wash and wax three weather-beaten cars and again prescribes the motion. Finally, Daniel reaches his limit: "I thought you were going to teach me karate, but all you have done is have me do your unwanted chores!" Daniel has broken Miagi's one condition, and the old man's face pulses with anger. "I have been teaching you karate! Defend yourself!" Miagi thrusts his arm at Daniel, who instinctively defends himself with an arm motion exactly like that used in one of his chores. Miagi unleashes a vicious kick, and again Daniel averts the blow with a motion used in his chores. After Daniel successfully defends himself from several more blows, Miagi simply walks away, leaving Daniel to discover what the master had known all along: skill comes from repeating the correct but seemingly mundane actions. It was at this point Daniel ceased being a student and became a disciple of Mr. Miagi. – adapted

- c. A disciple eagerly learns all the lessons he needs to know and puts them into practice.
- d. **A Disciple is one who has surrendered all to follow his Master.**
- e. Discipleship goes beyond accepting Christ as Savior. Discipleship means giving all to move one's personal, intimate relationship with God into an ever deeper Christian maturity. A disciple is someone who lives in day-by-day submission to the loving leadership of Jesus by His grace and for His glory.
  - i. **Examples:**
  - ii. Luke 9:61-62 *"And another also said, 'Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.' But Jesus said to him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God'."*
  - iii. 1 Kings 19:19-21 *"So he (Elijah) departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant."*

- 5. What could be greater than to be chosen by God to touch someone's life that will go where you cannot go and do what you cannot do? Who led Billy Graham to Christ? Consider this chain of God's providential events:
  - a. A layman by the name of Edward Kimball led Dwight L. Moody to Christ. Dwight went on to be one of the greatest preachers of modern history. It was D.L. Moody that impacted F.B. Meyer and Meyer touched Wilbur Chapman. Chapman partnered with Billy Sunday and Billy Sunday had a major impact on Mordacai Ham. Mordacai Ham felt like a failure in his ministry and decided to quit. He felt burdened to do one more revival circuit. A sixteen year old boy with little interest in the revival was persuaded to go on one of the last days. That boy was named Billy Graham.
  - b. How many people would know who Mordacai Ham is? For that matter, how many people have ever heard of Edward Kimball? Did God use Edward Kimball to reach the masses? I guess it depends on how you look at it. God produced the fruit of his obedient labor. Edward Kimball is as much of an heir to the fruit God produced as D.L. Moody and Billy Graham are. God is not interested in what you can do. God is interested in your obedience and faithfulness. How effective would Paul have been if he continued to be the leader of every church he founded? The entire world has benefited from the fact that the Apostle Paul did not care about being in charge. He cared about spreading the gospel and equipping others to take over the churches he founded.

That is mentorship. It is not what I can do, but being faithful to pass on the vision God has given me. The results belong to God, but the obedience belongs to me.

- c. Mentorship doesn't begin until after the relationship has been established. Even if someone is ready to be mentored, the relationship is still the foundation that mentorship must be built on. As God raises up leaders, mentorship is born.
6. Business and leadership guru John Maxwell stresses the importance of mentoring in the final chapter of his book, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, as he writes that **"A discipler's success is measured by succession."** (ie. Elijah/Elisha, Moses/Joshua, Paul/Timothy, John/Polycarp/Ireneaus)
7. Final Question: **"The challenge to us this morning is to prayerfully consider two questions,**
8. **"Who could God be asking me to mentor?"** and
9. **"Who could God want me to seek out as a mentor?"**
10. **One thing that we are guaranteed is that in both roles, you will be challenged and shaped a little more into the likeness of Christ."**
11. Fill out your slip if you are willing to be mentored or willing to try to invest in another person. We had 20 people come to our discipler's forum last Sunday night, and next Sunday we will have another! You can have questions answered and perhaps find a person you can disciple/be disciplined by. Don't wait! Choose to grow! Amen?