

BEING A CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE-MAKER Leading by Example

I. The Call and Example of Jesus

A. Jesus **calls** us to: **make disciples** Mt 28:18-20

B. Jesus modeled **how** to do this

1. The **first** step: **Follow Him**

Mt 4:19

Lk 9:23

2. The **second** step: **Identify with Him**

Mt 11:29

I Pe 2:21

I Jn 2:6

3. The **third** step: **Follow His Example**

Jn 13:15

4. The **fourth** step: **Grow in Relationship with Him**

Jn 15:15

C. Jesus was **more than Master and Teacher**—**more than Rabbi in school**

He was also **Disciple-maker** in practical life and he calls us to be the same.

D. The best disciple-making is **more than Teaching**

It is **more than Leading**

It is **Leading by Example**

II. What is a 'disciple-making'?

A. Definition: what does it mean to 'mentor' someone

1. It is a **relationship**
voluntary
collegial
trusting
commitment
chemistry

2. It is built on **Servant Leadership**

- not ___producing clones
- not ___hero worship
- not ___showing how much smarter one is
- not ___based on formal rules/positions

3. It is a **Dynamic Process** [not static]

- it ___passes wisdom from generation to generation
- it ___empowers another person

4. It helps another person reach her/his **Potential**

- Balanced teaching [instruction, coaching, nurturing]
- Craftsmen [the Christian guild]
- Progressive [advancement]
- Life-long Process [of learning]
- Pulling [not Pushing]

5. It is more than

- Teaching
- Supervising/Leading

6. It is Role Modeling

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLE-MAKERS [MENTORING]

I. OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

A. MOSES AND JOSHUA

1. Call to Disciple

(DT 1:37-38) “The Lord was angry with me also on your account, saying “Not even you shall enter there. Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall enter there; **encourage him**, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.”

2. Divine Preparation—of Joshua

- a. Military commander: Joshua led Israel against Amalekites (EX 17:8-16)
- b. After the battle, God commanded Moses: write a memorial and **recite it to Joshua**
- c. Aide-de-camp (servant) to Moses
- d. Attended him when he went up Mt. Horeb (EX 24:13)
- e. Stayed in the tent of gathering where God met Moses (EX 33:11)
- f. Moses warned him not to be hero worshiper, when he tried to protect Moses (NU 11:28)

g. Intelligence officer: spied the land he would later conquer (NU 13-14)

3. Transfer of authority

(NU 27: 18-19) “So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Take Joshua the son of Num, a man in whom is the Spirit, and **lay your hand on him**; and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation; and **commission him in their sight**. And you shall **put some of your authority** on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him.’”

4. Principles of Discipleship

a. **Divine call** to disciple (DT 1:38)

b. **Follower’s devotion**: Joshua remained constantly in tent of meeting

c. Joshua was **tested/strengthened** under Moses’ constant **supervision** (Joshua always with him)

d. Practical and risky work built Joshua’s **confidence** for future missions

1. Moses **delegated** battle execution to Joshua

2. Both Moses and Joshua **trusted God** for the victory

(DT 3:21-22) “...Your eyes have seen all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings; so the Lord shall do to all the kingdoms into which you are about to cross. Do not fear them, for the Lord your God is the one fighting for you.”

e. Mentors **encourage** and strengthen their followers

f. Mentors eventually must **let go**

g. Mentor’s **initiative**: apparently Moses chose to mentor Joshua long before God called him

h. **God’s initiative**: call, transfer of authority, and public affirmation are at God’s direction

i. Proteges **stand on their mentors’ shoulders**

- Joshua exceeded Moses’ success
- He actually entered and conquered Canaan

j. **Servant** relationship

1. In NU & DT Joshua is Moses’ servant

‘*sharath*’ = ‘aide’ = attends, waits upon, assists

2. Joshua 5:14

a. Calls him bond servant of Captain of Lord of Hosts

b. Contrast:

Joshua is *not* Moses' bond servant
That relationship is reserved for God

3. Servant leadership = bond service only to God

Then we help/serve others (not servitude)

B. ELIJAH AND ELISHA

1. **Divine call** to mentor Elisha (I Kings 19:16)

2. Follower's **devotion**

a. Total discipleship:

1. Sacrificed oxen and destroyed his farming implements (I Kings 19:21)

2. Elisha persisted in following him (II Kings 2:1ff) despite 4 times Elijah told him to stay behind

b. Elisha called Elijah "father" (II Kings 2:12)

3. Supervision and risk—Elisha apparently served under Elijah

a. During two wars against Arameans

b. During final confrontations with Ahab, Jezebel, Ahaziah

4. Elijah cared for, encouraged and strengthened Elisha

a. Told him to stay behind on his final journey

b. Offered to grant his wish

c. Left his mantle for Elisha

5. God's initiative:

Only God could grant Elisha's wish & confirm call publicly

6. Elisha stood on Elijah's shoulders:

Received a double portion of his spirit (II Kings 2)

7. Servant leadership

Elisha—same type servant as Joshua = "*sharath*" (I Kings 19:21)

C. SAUL AND DAVID: A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

1. Saul's only hope—was David

After forfeiting his call

Saul's hope of redeeming future was to encourage David

2. Saul's downfall

His jealousy prevented him from mentoring David

Turning point = people praised David for killing Goliath

I Sam 18:9 "And Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on."

3. Key lesson missed

Saul did not learn key lesson of discipling

Your follower may surpass you

D. ROYAL DISCIPLESHIP

1. DAVID AND SOLOMON

- a. David discipled Solomon well (I Chron 22-29)
- b. David developed resources and plan to build the Temple—which became Solomon's chief task
- c. David elevated him to king and trained him before David died
- d. David supervised Solomon's revision of the administration and Army
- e. Publicly affirmed Solomon
- f. Secured allegiance of people to Solomon

2. SOLOMON

- a. Solomon was a poor discipler
 1. Good intentions
 - a. He spent much time with Rehoboam
 - b. He passed on wisdom of Proverbs and the Songs
 2. But his lifestyle set a bad example:
 - a. Allowed the idolatry of his many wives
 - b. Rehoboam followed his **example**

3. LATER KINGS

Most followed apostate examples of their predecessors

- a. (I Kings 15:3) First in Judah, after Rehoboam: Abijam “walked in all the sins of his father...”
- b. (I Kings 15:26) First in Israel after Jeroboam: Nadab “did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin which he made Israel sin.”

II. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

A. PAULINE EXAMPLE

1. Basic three-fold message:

- a. Follow my example
- b. Put it into practice
- c. Pass it on

2. Follow my example

- a. Not self-confidence, but dependence on Christ within him
- b. Biblical texts

(I COR 11:1) “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

(I COR 4:16) “Therefore I urge you to imitate me.”

Also see other passages: II TH 3:7; PH 3:17

3. Put it into practice

(PH 4:9) “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.”

4. Pass it on

(II TIM 2:2) “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

5. Paul’s example—he mentored others:

- a. Examples: Timothy, Titus, Onesimus, and John Mark
- b. How: First in person and then by letter (Pastoral Epistles)
- c. Relationship: Spoke of them as sons in the faith (I Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4)
- d. Treated as colleagues

1. Gave them pastoral and mentoring responsibilities

- a. Timothy to Corinth and Ephesus
- b. Titus to Crete
- 2. Timothy co-sent 6 letters:
 - I Cor, Philippians, Col, I and II Thess, Philemon
- 3. Urged proteges to treat followers as equals/brothers (I TIM 5:1)
- 6. Paul's example—he mentored churches
 - a. To the Corinthians
 - 1. I Corinthians is a discipling letter
 - 2. II Corinthians is a mentoring letter
 - b. Other mentoring letters
 - 1. Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians
 - 2. Method: instructed, confronted, encouraged

B. BARNABAS—THE CONSUMMATE DISCIPLE-MAKER

- 1. An Encourager and Edifier (builder)
 - a. His name means ‘Son of Encouragement’
 - b. Encouraged church in Jerusalem with his gift (Acts 4:36-37)
 - c. One of the 70 elders (see Clement of Alexandria)
 - d. Apostle (Acts 14:4) full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:24)
 - e. Sent by Jerusalem to his home Antioch to build up the work there (Acts 11)
- 2. Mentored Paul
 - a. Interceded on his behalf with the apostles (Acts 9:27)
 - b. Called Saul to Antioch after several years (Acts 11:25-26)
 - c. Recognized Saul's gifts when no one else did
 - d. Confirmed Saul in his mission: evangelizing the Gentiles
 - e. Saul followed Barnabas' example:

- worked for living (I COR 9:6)
- took collections (Acts 11)

f. Treated Saul/Paul as colleague on first missionary journey

g. Eventually Paul surpassed his mentor

3. Mentored John Mark

a. John Mark was his cousin (Col 4:10)

b. Interceded for him with Paul, who disallowed his return

c. Recovered John Mark and continued to mentor him
(Acts 15:39)

d. His efforts succeeded

1. Paul later affirmed Mark was useful to him
(II TIM 4:11)

2. John Mark ministered with Paul while he was in prison
(Col 4:10)

4. Barnabas: Value-added mentor

Special ability: to recover and rebuild those others had lost faith in—Saul and John Mark