



## Life Practices

### Lesson #5 Investing in Relationships-Your Discipleship Responsibilities

#### Introduction

Let's start by "fact checking" some concepts often related to biblical discipleship. (My thanks to "wesleyan life" website for these thoughts).

Mark Each of these Fact or Fiction:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Discipleship is something I can do by myself-just Jesus and me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Discipling others is way too complicated and should be left to the "professionals."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Discipleship is a program of the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Helping make disciples is fine if you find it rewarding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Seriously, I am so busy, I don't see any way to add it into my life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. To be a discipler of others, I will have to become their "best friend forever."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Discipling others can be accomplished almost automatically through simple "Christian Fellowship."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Discipling is pretty much the same thing as mentoring.

**A good definition of "Discipleship:** "an intentional relationship in which we walk along-side other believers in order to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ them in love to grow in maturity in Christ." (Crickett Keith)

"Coffee cup" version: Helping others grow in the Lord.

#### **You might be a great discipler (a believer who is maturing) IF....**

1. You clearly see the \_\_\_\_\_ as central to every discussion (II Tim. 3:16-17).
2. You are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ( Luke 9:23).
3. You want to \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 16:15).
4. You are focused on \_\_\_\_\_, interested in building relationships and want to serve others (Acts 2:42 and Matt. 25:40).

#### **Some temptations to fight or challenges to meet as we make disciples:**

1. We dare not make the process about \_\_\_\_\_. We are "proclaiming Christ!" (Col. 1:28). They don't need us, they need Jesus. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ to them. Point them to Jesus.



2. We cannot approach discipleship as if it were a \_\_\_\_\_ (see John 5:39). It is a process that is rooted in relationship.

3. Making disciples can be challenging. See Col. 1:28-29. Sometimes we need to “crowd” our friends a bit (See Prov. 27:6). Be patient with their growth.

**There is a great biblical example of an effective discipler in I Thessalonians.**

Paul related to the folks in this church as:

I Thess. 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thess. 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thess. 2:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thess. 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

**Some Old Testament Examples of great disciplers:**

Moses to \_\_\_\_\_

Eli to \_\_\_\_\_

Elijah to \_\_\_\_\_

**Some New Testament Examples:**

1. Jesus to the 12 apostles

2. Paul to Titus

His name means “honorable.” He was a Greek that got saved on Paul’s first missionary journey. He traveled with Paul (II Cor. 7:6-7, 8:6, 16). He ministered with Paul for three years in Ephesus. Was sent to Corinth to help solve problems. And eventually settled on the island of Crete. He spent 15 plus years at Paul’s side, first as his “brother” (II Cor. 2:13) and then as his \_\_\_\_\_ (II Cor. 8:23).

3. Paul to Timothy



Paul is about 30 years older than Timothy (he is probably in his late 40s when he first met Timothy). Timothy was about 20 when he was recruited by Paul in Acts 16. They are going to spend the next 13 plus years together. He helped establish the churches at Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea. He spent three years with Paul in Ephesus and two years with him in Rome. Paul wrote his last and most personal letter to Timothy (II Timothy).

Their discipleship relationship grew:

Phase One: \_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim. 1:2)

Phase Two: \_\_\_\_\_ (II Tim. 3:10-11)

Phase Three: \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 16:21)

### Here is an example for us to follow

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ for Timothy (II Tim. 1:3 ). He \_\_\_\_\_ him. (I Tim. 1:18 ) He \_\_\_\_\_ him (I Tim 4:7) and finally he \_\_\_\_\_ Timothy ( I Tim. 4:12).

### Resource to Consider

*Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman

### For the Over Achiever Among Us

1. Memorize II Tim. 1:13
2. Think through the principles found in Paul's charge to Timothy (II Tim. 4:1-2). Consider how that might impact the way you disciple others.

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