

Mentors

February 13, 2020

If you have known me for any time, heard me speak, or sat in one of my training sessions, you have undoubtedly heard me quote my life verse.

Like many of us, I have read the Bible many times in the course of my walk with Christ. I came to Christ when I was seventeen, but it wasn't until my early 50s that this verse spoke into my life. Not knowing it was a biblical principle, I had seen the application of this verse in others' lives and I had been a recipient of this principal being administered into my life. You may have been also.

Even Jesus demonstrated this principal when, after praying for His Father's direction, He chose twelve men to pour his life into. He pulled three of those men even closer to share specific information.

This principal has revolutionized my ministry to men that God has called me into. It will also revolutionize your ministry, regardless of the burden and passion God has given you.

So, "What is this verse?" you ask. Paul wrote it in his first letter to the Thessalonians.

We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. (1 Thessalonians 2:8 – CSB)

We have always been taught to share the gospel as Christians, but very few of us have been taught to also share our lives. To speak into the lives of others, mentoring them in their walk with God.

There is nothing as rewarding as sitting across a table from a college student, and giving him permission to ask questions. Or meeting with a young married man starting a family and sharing with him your experiences of life. Or even talking with one of your peers who is just beginning their walk with God. With each, speaking the Word of God and helping them to apply God's Word into their lives.

Jesus, the ultimate discipler/mentor lived by example. He spent time pouring his life and His Father's teachings into a rag-tag group of men. The Apostle Paul did the same everywhere he went. When you look in the Old Testament you see men of God being mentors. The Prophet Eli mentored Samuel. The Prophet Elijah mentored Elisha. And there are many others we could mention.

My challenge to you is to seek God and ask him "Who do you want me to mentor?" Some of you are probably saying, 'I don't know how to mentor.' Or 'I will make mistakes.' First, none of us knew how to mentor until we stepped out in faith and allowed God to use us. Second, all of us will make mistakes – Jesus is the only one who didn't. Even Paul, Eli and Elijah made mistakes. And I have made my share.

I have been told that one of Billy Graham's concerns was that many who made decisions for Christ at his crusades probably didn't have someone discipling/mentoring them after they left the service that night. Many probably floundered. We need to be available for God to use us to mentor others in their walk with God. You will be amazed how God will work through you and you will be encouraged yourself.

If you are interested in learning more about discipling and mentoring. Contact us, we will be pleased to share with you our own stories about pouring our lives into others.

Together in the adventure and challenge to disciple men - Mike