GO MAKE DISCIPLES…

Our Mentoring, *Mark 3:13-15; Matthew 28:18-20*

Jesus did not make disciples only by teaching large crowds. He intentionally invested in a smaller group, inviting them into His life and letting them see what it looked like to follow God. He taught them, gave them opportunities to serve, corrected them when needed, and eventually sent them to make disciples themselves. Jesus' example reminds us that discipleship is deeply relational. Making disciples requires more than passing along information; it means walking alongside people as they learn to follow Jesus. Consider Jesus' model of mentorship:

Jesus Chose Them

- Jesus intentionally chose people to invest in.
    - Jesus called the twelve "so that they might be with Him" (*Mark 3:13–15*).
    - Jesus' call to follow Him was an invitation into a life of discipleship (*Luke 9:23; John 1:43*).
- Jesus invested deeply in a smaller group while continuing to minister to the crowds.
    - Discipleship requires relationships with enough time and trust for genuine spiritual formation to take place (*1 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 4:15–17*).
- Jesus did not wait for His disciples to become impressive before investing in them.
    - They would misunderstand Him, argue with one another, doubt Him, and eventually abandon Him (*Mark 9:32–34; Matthew 26:31–35*).
- Christian mentoring begins with intentionality.
    - Sometimes discipleship begins with something as simple as inviting someone to lunch or spending time together (*Acts 2:42–47*).

Jesus Let Them See Him

- The disciples learned from Jesus not only because of what He taught them but because they watched His life.
    - They saw Him pray (*Luke 11:1*).
    - They saw Him show compassion to people others ignored (*Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34*).
- Jesus modeled a life of dependence on God.
    - Before choosing the twelve, Jesus spent the night in prayer (*Luke 6:12–13*).
    - Before the cross, Jesus prayed to the Father (*Luke 22:39–46*).
- Our lives are teaching something all the time.
    - Paul could say, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (*1 Corinthians 11:1*).
    - Scripture repeatedly calls Christians to follow the example of faithful believers (*Philippians 3:17; Hebrews 13:7*).

Jesus Let Them Work

- Jesus did not allow His disciples to remain observers forever.

    - He eventually sent the twelve out to preach, cast out demons, and heal the sick (*Mark 6:7–13*).
- Jesus did not wait until the disciples were perfect before giving them responsibility.
    - Jesus knew they needed experience to grow (*Luke 9:1–6; 10:1–20*).

Jesus Corrected Them

- Jesus' correction was always intended to form His disciples.
    - His goal was to help His disciples become the people He was calling them to be (*Hebrews 12:5–11*).
- Jesus corrected His disciples while continuing to believe in them.
    - After Peter's failure, Jesus restored him and told him, "Feed my sheep" (*John 21:15–17*).
    - Christian mentoring requires both truth and patience (*Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:2*).
- Spiritual growth takes time.
    - Mentoring means walking with someone while God transforms them (*Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18*).

Jesus Sent Them

- Jesus gave His disciples the mission to continue what He had begun.
    - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (*Matthew 28:18–20*).
- Paul described this same pattern to Timothy.
    - Those people were to teach others also (*2 Timothy 2:1–2*).
- The result should be people who have been shaped by Jesus.
    - When the religious leaders saw Peter and John, they recognized that "they had been with Jesus" (*Acts 4:13*).
    - The goal is that after spending time with us, people become more like Jesus (*Romans 8:29; Galatians 4:19*).

Applications

Jesus' example gives us a practical picture of what mentoring can look like. Consider:

- Choose someone to intentionally invest in, recognizing that discipleship requires time, relationships, and trust (*Mark 3:13–15; Matthew 9:9*).
- Let someone see your faith in ordinary life, remembering that people learn from how we pray, serve, respond to difficulty, and treat others (*1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17*).
- Give someone opportunities to serve and grow, remembering that disciples become capable by practicing what they are learning (*Mark 6:7–13; Ephesians 4:11–12*).
- Walk patiently with people as they grow, remembering that spiritual maturity takes time and that God is the one who transforms us (*Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18*).
- Help someone become a disciple who makes disciples, remembering that Christian mentoring should multiply beyond our own relationship (*2 Timothy 2:1–2; Matthew 28:18–20*).