

A Man & His Discipleship

(Nothing has the power to transform the world more than discipling men)

“Though Jesus did what He could to help the multitudes, He primarily devoted Himself to a few men, rather than the masses. One must decide where he wants his ministry to count—in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of his life in a few chosen men who will carry on the work after he is gone. Building disciples is not easy. It requires constant, personal attention, much like a father gives to his children.” — Dr. Robert Coleman

“He got alone to pray (Mark 1:35), and he preached the crowds (Mark 2:13), but then we have the Gospels’ curious glimpses into how he invested the bulk of his ministry: with those few men to whom he had called, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). He told the world his difficult to understand parables (Matthew 13:34), then drew his Twelve aside and explained the riddles for them (Matthew 13:36). Even Jesus’s “alone time” was often with his men. Jesus was willing to bless the masses, but what drove his ministry was investing in the few who would lead the church.” – David Matthis

Key Verses:

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20

“..and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2:2

❖ A Man is a Hard Thing to Reach

- The largest unengaged people group living in America today are men, even though they may be in our worship services, conferences, events...cultural or “southern fried” Christianity
- How many of us in honesty can claim the above statement to be true of ourselves at one point in our life? Maybe even now?
- Pride, knowing it all, and having it all together vs humility, a learning attitude, a broken heart before God
 - *“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”* **Proverbs 11:2**
 - *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”* **Luke 14:11**

❖ A Spiritual Reformation of Society Begins with a Spiritual Reformation of Men

- The hard, cold reality is that we will not see revival in America and the world if effective disciple-building of men in churches does not become a priority.
 - When you minister to a man, you also minister to his wife (future), children (future), his church, community, employer (employees)... You minister to his legacy!
 - *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” **Deuteronomy 6:4-7***
- *“I love the church, but the church on the whole has not been able to muster an ongoing will or comprehensive strategy to disciple men. Pastoring men is not a top priority in any denomination based upon their actual allocations of financial and intellectual resources.”* **Patrick Morely**
 - In other words, discipleship of men cannot be done on Sunday mornings. It has to go deeper. Much deeper.
- The devil has a much more effective plan to reach men than do most churches—than most of us.
 - *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”* **1 Peter 5:8** ... ponder on the culture of the world. Many led astray. We must fight for souls!

❖ The Relational Impact of the Paul, Timothy, Barnabas Concept

➤ Paul

- Paul represents that person in your life who mentors, leads, and directs you. This is the man who comes along side you to disciple you along the road of faith and life. This is someone who has traveled further down the road of faith and life than you. This man doesn't have to be a great deal older than you, but it probably ought to be someone who has walked faithfully with God long enough and far enough for you to profit from his wisdom – his reflected-upon experience, study of God's Word, etc. And it usually is the case that, though not exclusively so, this man will be older than you as well. But, as I said, sometimes this simply means, "older in the faith."

➤ Barnabas

- Barnabas is someone who encourages you and holds you accountable in your faith and life. This is more or less a mutual friendship, or what's called in the world of spiritual formation, a "spiritual friendship." In the book of Acts, Paul and Barnabas traveled together side by side. Barnabas was a key person in Paul's life, especially at the beginning of his walk with Christ as he introduced Paul to the Christian community. Their relationship then became one of mutual encouragement, ministry, and accountability.

➤ Timothy

- Timothy is that man you help guide along the road of faith and life. This is generally someone who has not traveled as far as you have in your walk with Christ. Such a man is marked (or should be) by an eagerness to grow in his relationship with Christ and is humble and teachable enough to receive what you have to share and to interact with you on the things of faith and life.
 - Men usually transition from being a Timothy to a Barnabas. And while they still can be discipled, they also minister to the Paul in many ways.

- We need to have every single one of these in our life and need to be every single one of these to someone in our life! **If start modeling this throughout Rock Solid Man then we as men will flourish as we walk into 2024!**