TRAINING Disciples to Train

Session 33: The Master's Model (13b)

Offered by Ron Lively, M.Div., M.A. – BiblicalMentoring.org (Studies)

Step 1: Opening prayer

Step 2: Each person quotes the memory verse: VERSE: **Matthew 10:7-8**

7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.
You received without paying; give without pay.

Step 3: *Read and discuss all or part of the Bible Chapter* - **Matthew 10**
Link: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2010&version=ESV

Step 4*:* Questions for Personal Applications and/or Group Discussions:

1. Why does the author write of the importance of letting your disciple see you, your life, ministry and your love for God and others?

2. II Corinthians 5:17 says that a believer becomes a new creation in Christ. Thus, be reminded that everything we do is spiritual.

3. **Practical Training** – As a disciple-maker, we train with our words and with our involvement in the lives of our trainees. Jesus used balance with theological and practical knowledge and experience. Some of the best lessons I learned in seminary were in the practical classes like Hospital Chaplaincy where you put your knowledge into actions.

4. **Jesus delegated responsibility** – As with the training of our children, it is important to start with less important tasks or challenges then proceed with the more important tasks. This is true in our discipleship training.

5. Phillips offers **four guidelines** to help us effectively delegate responsibility to our trainees. Listen for these four guidelines.

Step 5*: Read & discuss this content from the book-The Making of a Disciple (See Source below):*
Chapter 13b per the author – Keith Phillips:

The Master's Model, Con't.

Your character may be impeccable, but it does your disciple little good if he is not with you to see it modeled. Paul took Timothy with him and used their experiences to flesh out biblical truths (2 Timothy 3:10,11). Let your disciple observe your life, your ministry and your love for God and others. Relax together. The more time you spend together the more effective your discipling will be. "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

Doing things with your disciple is one of the most effective methods of modeling. You must be actively concerned about his job, finances, family relations and whatever else affects him. Teach him that as a new creation in Christ, everything he does is spiritual. If he is lax in time management, schedule his week with him. If he is weak in servanthood, do a volunteer project together. If he lacks physical discipline, jog with him every morning. If he needs to learn how to work diligently, assign a responsibility to him that requires determined effort on both of your parts. God will use your life to illustrate the practical applications of His Word.

Paul offered himself as a pattern over which his disciples could confidently trace their lives: "The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9). Paul had no fear of investing his life in his disciples. He was not ashamed to influence them because Paul did not preach about himself. He declared, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Because your character resembles the Master's, you are worth imitating. The Spirit urges and enables disciples to imitate the Christ who lives in you.

Practical Training

The first time our boys saw Katie and me swimming they wanted to jump right into the water and try it with us. Of course, we could not allow two-year-olds to try swimming without proper training. First, we took them in with us, holding them every moment. Then as we explained how we held our breath, shut our mouths underwater, kicked our feet and reached and pulled with our hands, they began to swim short distances on their own—as long as we were right beside them. Now they can swim the entire length of the pool by themselves. But we still watch them carefully. Someday they will be skilled enough to swim unattended.

There is no real training without involvement. Skills are developed by practically applying knowledge. Jesus was the world's greatest teacher because He perfectly balanced His disciples' theological input with their practical participation. He counseled, "...Be sure to put into practice what you hear. The more you do this, the more you will understand what I tell you" (Mark 4:24 LB).

Practical training necessitates involving your disciple in your life and ministry. This is accomplished through delegation. Delegating is entrusting responsibility and authority to others and establishing accountability for the results. These three components work together like a three-legged stool. Each is so crucial to successful delegation that if one is missing, the process topples.

Jesus was a master at training by delegation. Let's examine how He involved His disciples as He trained them in the skill of ministry.

***Jesus delegated responsibility**.*

After the disciples closely observed Christ's life and ministry and were taught the principles behind His actions, He gave them opportunities to practice what they had learned.

Their participation started with menial tasks like procuring food, distributing the loaves and fishes and securing a boat. As their commitment grew, He instructed them to baptize others. Then He took them on a trial run —a closely supervised missionary journey through Galilee. They became His associates in ministry.

Soon Jesus gave them assignments to carry out with only limited supervision (Matthew 10:7,8). He commissioned them to preach the gospel and heal the sick. In order to help them accomplish this task, He gave them guidelines within which they could decide how to act in various situations: what to preach, how to minister to men in need, where to go, what to take along, how to finance their trip and how to respond to opposition. Jesus designed the disciples' educational experience not only to meet the spiritual and physical needs of their neighbors but also to build their confidence and maturity.

Four guidelines will help you effectively delegate responsibility to your disciple:

***1. Never delegate prematurely**.*

Premature delegation feeds pride and reinforces the world's thinking that abilities and talents produce fruit. It infers that "doing" is more important than "being" and reflects the mentality that ministering and discipling are man's work instead of the work of the Spirit. Delegate responsibility on the basis of your disciple's self-death, servanthood and maturity, not skills. Do not assume that your disciple knows how to carry out the responsibility you are assigning to him unless you have done it with him or have seen him do it. A good teacher trains his student by example. Your disciple learns how to minister by watching you minister and by ministering with you. Be sure he is capable and knows how to perform the responsibility you delegate to him.

2. Delegate clearly.

Specifically define the responsibility your disciple is to assume. Be sure he thoroughly understands the results you expect.

***3. Delegate gradually**.*

Initially you will do everything together. Delegating responsibility begins slowly. Start by assigning small tasks which have a high probability of success. Failure creates insecurity. Help him avoid unnecessary mistakes which would damage his confidence. As he gains experience and matures spiritually, give him larger jobs. Luke 16:10 says, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much." While there are certain responsibilities and decisions that you cannot relinquish, you should delegate as much as possible. The men that Christ trained delegated responsibility liberally (1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 3:8).

4. Inspire confidence.

Your disciple must know that you are confident in his ability to accomplish the assigned task. Tell him about the growth you observe in his life. Paul delighted in the growth of those whom he served: "...your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you..." (2 Thessalonians 1:3, 4). He applauded Philemon for his love and faith (Philemon 4, 5). Encourage and praise your disciple for jobs well-done.

Offer constructive criticism which leads to improvement rather than dwelling on temporary failures. Your attitude, more than your words, will build confidence. Be sure he feels he is making a significant contribution and has a vital ministry. Demonstrate your confidence by asking his opinion on specific problems and follow his advice when possible.

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***Step 6:** Share personal prayer requests then each person prays for the other's requests.*

Source: The Making of a Disciple by Dr. Keith Philips. Pub. by Fleming H. Revell Company, 1981. ISBN 0-8007-1181-5. Introduction by Robert E. Coleman. Content (except study questions) is taken from the book without revisions.

Revised 20261123