TRAINING Disciples to Train

Session 34: The Master's Model (13c)

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Step 1: Opening prayer

Step 2: Each person quotes the memory verse: VERSE: **John 1:4-5**
4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Step 3: *Read and discuss all or part of the Bible Chapter* - **John 1**
Link: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201&version=ESV

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

1. **Jesus delegated authority.** Do you think Christ's disciples could have accomplished much without Christ's delegated authority?

2. Leadership training requires the leader to specifically define the extent of the authority granted.

3. **Jesus exercised accountability**. Jesus also loved his disciples enough to effectively evaluate and correct their actions. Why is this so important in our training?

4. **Withdrawal**. Jesus commanded His disciple to make disciples everywhere (of all the nations). His primary work was to train his disciples - not to do all of this work Himself. Phillips says that His withdrawal began when His disciples were equipped to start training others. This is the pattern for us and our discipleship training to extend God's Kingdom.

5. **In Closing** – are you ready to do what Jesus commissioned us to do?

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

Jesus delegated authority.

Christ gave His disciples the authority to accomplish their responsibilities of healing the sick and proclaiming the kingdom. "...He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness" (Matthew 10:1).

Responsibility and authority must be equally delegated. It is unfair to ask your disciple to accept a responsibility for which you are unwilling to give sufficient authority. Insufficient authority leads to frustration and inefficiency. Why assign a task if your disciple must continually consult you in order to secure the authority to make decisions? Once you entrust a responsibility to him, let him lead.

Based on your past experience and the input of your leaders, decide how much authority will be required to carry out the responsibility you have assigned to your disciple. Then specifically define the extent of this authority. Be sure your disciple understands these limits. For example, you can set financial boundaries. If you assign the task of taking forty-five children on a field trip, you can specify that he should spend no more than $100. While he has the freedom to decide how to transport the children and what to feed them, he knows that his gas and food expenses cannot exceed $100 unless he receives your additional authorization.

Along with the delegation of responsibility and authority comes the "right" to be wrong. Your disciple will make mistakes and wrong decisions. We all do. Find out where he went wrong. Then help him to see where his thinking broke down. Encouraging your disciple to use failures as steppingstones to future growth will help him focus on improving his ministry, not on defending himself.

***Jesus exercised accountability**.*

Christ loved His disciples so much that He evaluated and corrected their actions so that they could grow in their Christian walk. He held them accountable. After the disciples' first "solo" missionary journey, they "gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught" (Mark 6:30). No doubt Jesus evaluated their work and reviewed the goals He had assigned to them. This time of sharing refined their ministry skills.

The tragedy in the Church today is that so few people are willing to make the necessary time and emotional investment in another that accountability requires. Before your discipling relationship began you promised to promote growth by holding your disciple accountable. Do not fail him.

Provide accountability and personal guidance in every aspect of your disciple's life and ministry. Encourage him in regular Bible study, Scripture memorization, meditation, prayer and worship. When his behavior and attitudes are not excellent, you must help him correct his weaknesses and develop his strengths.

Withdrawal

When Jesus was confident that His men had been trained, He handed over to them the leadership of God's work on earth and commissioned them to make disciples everywhere. Before Christ was crucified, He prayed to the Father, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do" (John 17:4 NIV). Christ's work was to train men, not simply to perform miracles or preach the gospel. When He had equipped His disciples, He could confidently ask to rejoin the Father (John 17:5). Withdrawal is the final step in training your disciple how to minister.

Withdrawal begins when your disciple is equipped to start discipling others. You repeat the same process you went through of praying for and carefully choosing a disciple in whom to invest. However, this time both you and your disciple are equipped for reproduction. Consequently, you are praying for two additional people.

When your disciple begins to disciple another person, your relationship continues, but the focus changes, even as Christ's relationship with His disciples changed after His ascension. Now you concentrate on helping him to train another person to become a functioning disciple.

The Master's method was "Be like Me," coupled with practical training that led to His withdrawal. We are wise to follow His example.

I am convinced that training others to train others is one of the greatest joys Christ allows us to experience. But it demands an enormous concentration of energy and will. My challenge to you is to BE God's person, rest in His sovereignty and let Him work freely through you in this most exciting part of building His kingdom.

Discipler's Checklist: The Master's Model
___I provide an excellent model for my disciple.
___I provide practical training.
___I delegate responsibility.
___I delegate authority.
___I exercise accountability.

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

Spend a few minutes to offer an evaluation of this training. Please offer a constructive critique that could improve this study / training.

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.

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