

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 2 “The Importance of Discipleship”

I. Introduction - We are began a study on *1st Timothy* last week when I taught on impartation. God imparted a gift to Timothy though Paul, which gave him the ability to lead and teach the church in Ephesus.

A. Background - *1 Timothy* is a personal letter Paul wrote to his son in the faith in 62 A.D. who he installed as the Pastor of the Church in Ephesus. He wrote this letter two years after he wrote *Ephesians* and 7 years after revival in Ephesus.

Tonight as we dig into the background of *1st Timothy* and why Paul wrote Timothy this letter. We are going to focus heavily on their relationship and how Paul disciplined/ mentored Timothy. He did this for years prior to installing him as pastor. He wrote this letter to help him deal with issues the church was having and to advise him about how to respond to those issues.

B. Tonight we’re going to talk about “The Importance of Discipleship.” Paul didn’t just turn this church over to anyone. He gave it to his son in the faith who had his heart.

II. The Importance of Discipleship

A. **1 Timothy 1:1-2**

1. Paul was an apostle (sent one of Jesus). Apostle wasn’t initially a Christian word. It was a Roman word used to describe leaders who brought the cultural, governmental systems, etc of Rome to new lands Rome conquered. Part of Paul’s responsibility was to bring the culture heaven to earth. One way that is done is through godly relationships.
2. Timothy was Paul’s son in the faith. In the New Testament, the word *son* is synonymous with *disciple*. The idea is Paul nurtured, cared for, and trained Timothy. He wasn’t just a spiritual sperm donor. He brought him to maturity.
3. **Malachi 4:5-6** This is a prophetic passage about John the Baptist. It describes the heart of the new covenant, which is the heart of the fathers turning to sons and the sons turning to the fathers.

B. How did Paul mentor Timothy?

1. Timothy was a gentile from Galatia born of a Jewish mother and Greek father. He was most probably saved during Paul’s first missionary journey to Galatia in 45 A.D. Paul met him during his second missionary journey around 50 A.D. At that time Timothy was a respected member of the church in Galatia, but not doing much in ministry. Paul invited him to travel with him and Silas to Macedonia.
- 2.. Things that happened to Timothy during His time with Paul:

- a. Paul taught Timothy the word. **2 Timothy 2:2**. In **Colossians 1:1** Timothy was with Paul when Paul wrote many of his letters.
Ex: **2 Corinthians, Philippians, Romans** - Timothy was probably one of the first to read the letter, ask questions of Paul, and maybe even help give Paul insight into writing the letter. How beneficial is that? That's like apprenticing under Jeff Bezos at Amazon.
- b. Paul prayed for Timothy regularly **2 Timothy 1:3-4**
- c. Paul was used to impart gifts to Timothy - **1 Timothy 4:14**. Does the gift get in Timothy without his relationship with Paul? Probably not.
- d. Learned how to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as he observed Paul. **Acts 16:1-10**. Timothy was there for all of that. **Some things are caught more than taught.**
- e. Saw Paul overcome adversity first hand when he was jailed in Philippi. **Acts 16:16-41**.
- f. Given opportunities to grow in his gifting. **1 Corinthians 4:15-17**. Paul sent his son to the church in Corinth to help straighten out the church (about 5 years into Timothy's apprenticeship).
- g. Eventually, after 10 years or so he was left in charge to pastor the church in Ephesus. This freed Paul to go to Rome and other places. Timothy wasn't abandoned, however, because once Paul had him out by himself, he still checked on him and spoke into His life: **1st and 2nd Timothy**. **Key: Replication is the key to saturation. 2nd Timothy 2:2.**

C. Takeaways

1. There are three types of relationship we all need. We need relationships where people are pouring into and disciplining us and we need relationships where we are disciplining others. We also all need peers who are where we are.
2. Discipleship, by its nature is personal. It has to be done relationally, It is not really done by the pastor on the stage speaking to the crowd. Biblical discipleship is relational. Ex: Randy Clark healing example - replication.
3. Discipleship requires time investment from both parties. The good news is we all have that time because God wouldn't command us to be and make disciples if he didn't give us the time to do it. Often we think we don't have the time, because our priorities are out of alignment. We prioritize money, hobbies, wrong relationships, sin and because of this we think we don't have time.
 - a. It probably wasn't convenient for Timothy to leave Galatia and follow Paul. His family was there, he probably had a job, a way of life. If we are going to follow the Master, we have to be all in. Jesus said you cannot be his disciple unless you take up your cross, deny yourself, and follow Him. We have to be all in. That sounds hard, but ask yourself, "Do you think Timothy was glad he was all in?"

b. It isn't convenient to disciple others. It requires time, energy, emotional energy, etc. but do you think Paul is glad he discipled Timothy, Titus and others. If he wouldn't have he could not have done things God called him to do like go to Rome or Spain.

III. Conclusion - Before we close tonight I want to give an on ramp for discipleship to everyone in this room. I'd encourage everyone to sign up for a Life Group or Ministry Team here. This is how you get in relationship with great leaders who I'm pouring my life into and who will then be able to pour their lives into you. This is how you become a Timothy who we remember 2,000 years later.

A. Musician Come Up and Play

B. Offering Verse - Matthew **6:31-33**

C. Pray Closing Prayer and Call Up Prayer Team