

Series: Get Help, Give Help

Message Title: Mentors & Advisors

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Luke 2:46-49,52

Three days later they found Him in the [court of the] temple, sitting among the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ All who heard Him were amazed by His intelligence and His understanding and His answers.

⁴⁸ When they saw Him, they were overwhelmed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us like this? Listen, Your father and I have been [greatly distressed and] anxiously looking for You."

⁴⁹ And He answered, "Why did you have to look for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

⁵² And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men.

Discussion Part 1:

Consider the above text and how that Jesus was asking the teachers questions. Why would any believer think they were exempt from instruction if Jesus had to have it? Why would anyone not see the extreme need to increase in wisdom or favor with God if the Son of God had to? Why did it take Jesus' parents three days to find Him?

S.Marshall thoughts:

Believers in North America are blessed for the most part to be without persecution. The problem is, that has bred an unconscious mindset that growth is optional. It's not. Jesus tells us that the most dangerous place to be is "lukewarm". Spiritual bacteria does not grow in the very cold, or the very hot - but the "lukewarm". Mentors and advisors that promote growth are absolutely necessary. Jesus proves that point.

Have someone read:

Ruth 3:5-6

And Ruth said to her, All that you say to me I will do.

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had told her.

Proverbs 18:7-8

A [self-confident] fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to himself.

⁸ The words of a whisperer or talebearer are as dainty morsels; they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

Proverbs 15:32

He who refuses *and* ignores instruction *and* correction despises himself, but he who heeds reproof gets understanding.

Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth and sell it not; not only that, but also get discernment *and* judgment, instruction and understanding.

Discussion Part 2:

Ruth didn't have time for the other girls whispering. There is a lot of indulging in whispering, talebearing, and yes "dainty morsels" by people who are unlike Ruth. Talk about how the Truth of God requires a whole other level of instruction, correction, insight, and discernment. How do you want history to define you? As a Ruth, a Daniel, or a whisperer snacking on negativity?

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

I know what it's like to ignore instruction and pay a huge price for my stupidity. I also know what it's like to ask God for forgiveness, help, and have Him generously rescue me. Now I've learned to be quick to "Buy the truth and sell it not". That means I pay the price quickly no matter what it is, because it's far cheaper than disobedience.

Life Application:

Decide as a group the simple instruction of Jesus telling His parents "I had to be in". Decide where you have to be in order to be like Jesus. It's not just location, but in fellowship, in relationship, and also engaged in. On the other hand, there were many places Jesus was not. Remember he asked, "Why did you have to look for Me?" Decide where it is you SHOULD be found if we were to lose you.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Father God we want to be like Jesus and say "We must be in our Father's house". That means we must be seeking first Your Kingdom as Jesus instructed us. Give each one of us Godly leaders, instructors, and mentors so that we can grow in wisdom and favor like Jesus. Ruth submitted to instruction and overcame all the odds against her, only to become a very famous, influential ancestor of Christ. Show us the fine art of how to buy the Truth and never compromise with whispering, backbiting, and demonic lies. That's the language of fools and You've paid for us to be children representing Your family. We say 'yes' to Your instruction!" (Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)