

Developing Disciples
Part 4
“The Capacity to Encourage”

3/25/26

Texts:

Deuteronomy 3:28

2 Chronicles 35:1-2

Isaiah 41:6-7

1. Encourage- to strengthen, to make strong, to harden, to grow
 - A. The longer I pastor, the higher value I am placing on the need of daily encouragement
 - B. People do not usually quit at church, it is what happens the rest of the week that they silently suffer through alone
 - C. Quote from Billy Cole about for every one man that backslides over pride, 10 quit over discouragement
 - D. I have realized that my role in your lives most of the time, is to be your encourager

2. Developers must encourage disciples
 - A. Quotes from John Maxwell, “I have yet to meet a person who doesn’t enjoy and benefit from encouragement”
 - B. “As a leader, you have great power to lift people up”
 - C. “People enjoy affirmation from a peer, but they really value it from their leader”
 - D. Mother Teresa once said, “Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are endless”
 - E. “You are doing incredible!”, “You brought your Bible to Bible study, you are so focused!”, “I want you to know that I believe in you”
 - F. After all, how do you feel when someone you admire values your effort or character?

3. Disciples must be validated into victory
 - A. They are going to fall, like we all do
 - B. They will hear every voice of condemnation, they must hear validation and confidence from their developer, mentor, pastor, etc
 - C. They already might lack spiritual self esteem, especially after failure or weariness
 - D. We must voice our belief in them consistently and intentionally
 - E. I am trying to encourage 10 people a day right now
 - F. What would happen if we all tried that? Especially with our disciples
 - G. Encourage them as often as possible

4. Our encouragement to them must be authentic

- A. There are three false encouragements we must avoid when strengthening others
- B. It cannot be fake, we must mean what we say
- C. You cannot hate someone and speak love to them, that is called lying
- D. It cannot be flattery, similar to lying, is to speak exaggerated praise to manipulate or gain favor with someone for personal gain
- E. Don't be nice to get something in return, it must be genuine to be encouragement
- F. It cannot be fabricated, encouragement is not false information. We cannot copy and paste our encouragement. That is insincere and dishonest

5. Jesus was the master encourager

- A. Read John 1:42
- B. He instantly renames Peter a rock, explain
- C. Read John 1:47
- D. Instantly identifies an admirable quality in Nathanael, no guile. Then further goes on to tell him how he will see greater things in his future
- E. Read Luke 7:28
- F. When describing John the Baptist, He said that he was the greatest of all time
- G. He then though, recognizing His audience declares that the least in the kingdom is greater than he
- H. No matter how low you felt that day, if Jesus looked at you and said you are greater than the greatest preacher alive, you would be encouraged
- I. He encouraged the centurion, a pagan, by saying I have not seen greater faith than yours

6. But I am not Jesus

- A. How can I encourage when I need encouragement?
- B. To properly encourage others, one must first be encouraged
- C. Read 1 Samuel 30:6, explain
- D. Fill your pot of coffee before you pour it into others cups, explain
- E. You must increase your capacity to be able to help others
- F. You cannot encourage someone while being discouraged

7. Once encouraged, you might get to disciple Paul

- A. Read Acts 9:10-17
- B. Describe how Ananias was not excited about his disciple
- C. He was scared and terrified actually
- D. Brother Saul... look at how his spirit has changed after being encouraged

8. Find your Apollos

- A. Read Acts 18:26
- B. Apollos was gifted but misguided and needed proper spiritual care and counsel

- C. Enter Aquila (eagle) and Priscilla (ancient), they felt a personal burden for the up and coming preacher
- D. They took him unto them, explain
- E. He then mightily convinced others that Jesus was the Christ
- F. That was because he was encouraged and loved into the full truth

9. What can God do with your disciple with you as their launching pad?

- A. Story of First Lady and Franette
- B. You don't need to be a scholar, you need to be their encourager
- C. I've made up my mind to convince you all individually and corporately that you will make it
- D. I have made up my mind to believe in you whether you believe in yourself or not
- E. I have made up my mind to not let you quit on my watch

10. Closing: Be encouraged

- A. When encouragement spreads
- B. Read Isaiah 41:6-7
- C. Your gifting doesn't have to match mine for me to encourage you