

Replicate – The Call to be a Mentor

4/5/20

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Sunday AM

If you have your Bible/Bible app, I'd like for you to turn to **2 Timothy 2** – where Paul writes to invite his faith protégé to engage in the ministry of **replication**.

replicate – to make a close or exact copy – and this is the heart of the G.C – *helping people to be like Jesus*.

We call this discipleship – but really, it's simply fulfilling the Biblical mandate of investing into others what Jesus and others have invested into you.

If you remember, back in January, we unveiled a renewed vision/ministry strategy for our church based on Paul's version of the G.C outlined in **Colossians 1:28** – *He's the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone w/ all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.*

Key Phrase – *fully mature in Christ* – it means *to be like Jesus* – a replication or identical copy of Christ.

Today, we're starting a series in **2 Timothy 2:1-7** on our calling to **replicate** ourselves to *influence all people into intimate fellowship w/ Jesus*.

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you've heard me say in the presence of many witnesses these entrust to reliable men who'll also be qualified to teach others. Join w/ me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete doesn't receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

To appreciate this text, we need to know a bit about Paul/Timothy. The Apostle Paul originally was a **rabbi-to-be/persecutor** of the church. His life was radically changed by God on the Via Maris some-where on the way to Damascus. After His conversion, Paul was sent by God to spread the news of His love and to establish the church in the Gentile world.

Timothy was Paul's protégé and son in the faith who traveled w/ Paul on some of his missionary journeys. Eventually, Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to pastor the church and to **replicate** himself into the leaders there – who were to **replicate** themselves into others!

In these verses, Paul invites Timothy to be a **disciple who makes disciples** offering (4) snapshots/metaphors of a true Jesus follower. He calls Timothy to be a mentor, soldier, athlete and farmer who **replicates** himself into others so that they might do the same.

This AM, I want to begin our study by looking at the call to be a spiritual **mentor** to others. I believe it is a call to **A.C.T.** on our faith to invest Jesus into others.

And the things you've heard me say in the presence of many witnesses these entrust to reliable men who'll also be qualified to teach others.

I The ASSIGNMENT of a Mentor/Teacher

The idea of **mentoring** dates back to the 8th century B.C. in Homer's epic poem – *the Odyssey*. In this story, King Odysseus goes off to fight in the Trojan Wars leaving his friend, **Mentor**, in charge over his household to watch over, guide, and teach Odysseus' son, Telemachus, to prepare him to be a man/leader. Sadly, Mentor failed in his task. But in the end, when Telemachus ventured out in search of his father, the goddess, Athena, shapeshifted into the form of Mentor to join Telemachus on his quest. Along the way, she mentors him to become the man he should've always been. So today, we understand a **mentor** to mean role model, guide, wise teacher, influencer, and friend.

In this passage, Paul is calling Timothy (and us) to be a teacher/mentor to people who show a hunger/thirst to know/serve/honor God w/ their lives.

People who invest the best of Jesus in them into the lives of others to help them to become intimate, reproducing followers of Jesus in their own right.

He was calling Timothy to do what Jesus had done w/ the 12 – take a group of faithful followers on a journey to maturity in the faith and usefulness in the mission.

Paul was inviting Timothy to join him in a ministry of **perpetual generational regeneration** – a mentor of mentors – who mentor people to become mentors too.

(4) generations – Paul mentored Timothy. Timothy was to mentor *reliable men*. Reliable men were to teach *others* also – **meaning a continual process**.

II The COMMISSION of Mentoring/Teaching

Timothy was to **entrust** into reliable men exactly what Paul had entrusted into him and what God had entrusted into Paul thru the H.S.

entrust (*paratithemi*) a banking term in the secular Greco-Roman world meaning ***to deposit something valuable for safekeeping*** – we're to guard it/invest it.

This is an **aojist imperative verb** in the Greek. Meaning this is of the highest importance. Start doing it now and never stop doing this b/c it's essential to the faith.

What was this priceless item to be deposited? It was the truth of Jesus and the Gospel capable of changing a person's life on earth/into heaven. It was the clear understanding that God's truth is profitable for doctrine/reproof/correction/training in righteousness.

But it was more than informational truth – it also entailed investing/entrusting the duty/responsibility of carrying out the mission of the G.C.

Think of it as a relay race – when the 1st runner hands off the baton to the 2nd runner – he's not just handing off the baton, he's also handing off the responsibility of running the next leg of the race w/ every ounce of energy he possesses along w/ the critical responsibility of handing off the baton to the 3rd runner so that he can run his leg w/ the same intensity – until the race is completed and won.

So, we're called to entrust into others not just the truth of God found in the Scriptures, but the call/passion of God w/in us to live out/accomplish His mission.

Do you know why God asks this of us – it's not just to perpetuate the faith thru us – **its also to perpetuate the faith in us.** We grow when we give the faith away.

I reminded of a college student who was having difficulty w/ his studies, so he went to talk to his professor. He said, "I'm studying hard and doing my best; but I just can't retain what I read/study. Do you think it'd help if I hired a tutor?" Recognizing the problem, the prof replied, "No, I wouldn't recommend that at all. ***You don't need a teacher; you need a pupil!***" See, the prof knew that learning is enhanced when we share our knowledge w/ others. **You will grow more when you give than when you receive.**

III The **TARGET** of Mentoring/Teaching

The **target** is reliable/faithful men/women who can carry on and carry out the faith.

We're all a product of the faithful men/women who've gone before us who've lived/invested their faith into the next generation. Simply put, they ran their leg in the spirit race and passed the baton to us.

reliable (pistos) faithful – refers to a person who's capable, accepting, and willing to pass the faith on to others. It refers to a person who exhibits the character, commitment, and conviction to see it thru.

Meaning – when we take a person under our wing to pour the Jesus in us into them, we need to try to vet them to see if they're willing/capable/committed to pass on to others what was given to them. They can't be a cul-de-sac/dead-end Christian.

At the same time, until we take the time to truly get to know someone and discover their heart for the Lord, we'll never know who/what they might become for Jesus. *You can't always judge a book by its cover!*

This was the heart of **John Wesley**. He once said – *If I had 300 men who feared nothing but God, hated nothing but sin, and were determined to know nothing among men except Jesus Christ and Him crucified – we would set the world on fire.*

One pastor I read this week said that when selecting a person to disciple (notice the *discipler* more often than not chooses their *disciple* – not vice versa) choose someone who is **F.A.T.** Select a person who is:

Faithful – they exhibit a passionate allegiance for God

Available – they have an openness to serve the Lord

Teachable – they have a genuine desire to grow

So, there you have it – the 1st snapshot of a discipler – he/she is a mentor/teacher – someone who willingly takes personal responsibility for another person to assist them in becoming an intimate follower of Jesus who helps others to become intimate follower of Jesus.

Most of you know I'm a fan of golf – it's a sport I've been around since I was 8 yrs old. You'd think I'd be much better than I am, yet I still love the sport in spite of my golfing short-comings.

One of the greatest instructors of all time was a man by the name of **Harvey Penick**. He was famous for his ***Little Red Book*** that sold millions of copies, **yet he was remembered most for his direct impact on people.**

Penick was renown b/c he refused to teach methods or group lessons, instead he only applied his wisdom only to the talents of individual players. Two of his most successful students were Tom Kite/Ben Crenshaw – both hall of fame golfers. He started teaching Kite at age 13 and Crenshaw at age 6.

Penick, who could've easily spent his life speaking to crowds and making a ton of money, chose a different route. He chose to invest himself in people (most of them children) – one at a time to help them to learn and respect the game of golf and the game of life. He understood the principle that disciples (even golf disciples) are made one at a time and not in bulk.

Folks – we will never become intimate, reproducing followers of Jesus b/c we go to church, read Christian books, engage in religious activity, or listen to sermons. Disciples are not made by spiritual programs or fiery pulpits – as Paul teaches Timothy (and all of us) – *disciples are made when one growing believer takes spiritual responsibility for another desiring-to-grow believer – and invests the Jesus in them into this other person thru a life2life relationship that mentors, teaches, models, and serves alongside of one another*. All of these other items are simply tools in the hands of a disciple-maker.

*And the things you've heard me say in the presence of many witnesses **entrust** to reliable men who'll also be qualified to teach others.*

Who personally is helping you to grow up in your faith – and who are you helping to grow in their faith? It is to this life God has called all of us.

DISCLAIMER: These messages are offered for your personal edification and enrichment. There is no legal copyright on this material. I have used many sources, and I have always attempted to cite any exact quotations. Any failure to cite a quote is simply an oversight on my part. If you are a preacher or teacher, I encourage you to use this material to stimulate your own Spirit-driven imagination. Additional study beyond this material will benefit both you and your listeners. You have my full permission to use any of this material as long as you cite the source for any substantial amount used in your message. If you borrow the majority of a message or outline, I encourage you to simply preface your remarks by saying something like: “Some (or “much” as the case may be) of the ideas I’m sharing in this message came from a message by Pastor Joey Rodgers in Georgia.” This simple citation may prevent any criticism that may be directed toward you.

Pastor Joey Rodgers