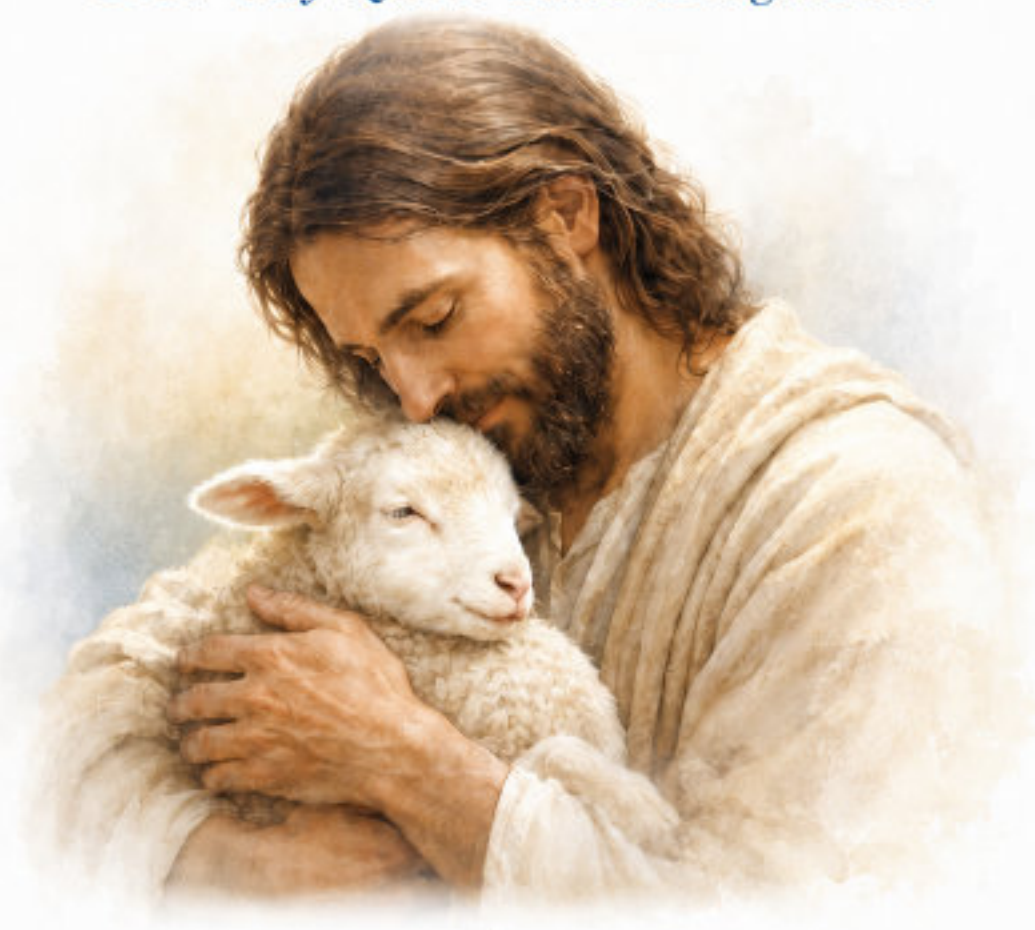


— The Next Steps —

An Intimate Walk with Jesus

A 30-day Quiet Time Assignment



*Teaching them to obey all things
I have commanded you... Matthew 28:20*



658 Blydenburgh Rd, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Why Mentorship?

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Matthew 28:19-20 is known in religious circles as the “Great Commission.” In the first part of the “Great Commission,” Jesus instructs His disciples to “*go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*” The second part of the commission says, “*teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.*” The purpose of mentorship is to fulfill the second part of this “Great Commission”. The goal of mentorship is to bring those in Christ to maturity in their faith. Mentorship is that spiritual “boot camp” where a disciple of Jesus is trained to be an effective soul winner, an effective teacher of the Word, and an effective “doer” of the Word.

The purpose of this 30-day quiet time study is to encourage you to set your mind on the things of God, to press on toward spiritual maturity and holiness and to prepare you to instruct others in the ways of God. Remember, as Matthew 28:19 implies, disciples are “made” not “born”. We are to “make disciples” by baptizing them and “teaching them to observe” what Christ commands us.

Let God’s Word mold you into the disciple He wants you to be. I want to encourage you to examine the Scriptures below and meditate on them as you venture into this 30-day study. May God richly bless you as to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

A. Matthew 28:19-20

- Jesus commands us to go and make disciples.
- After a person is baptized, they are to be taught to observe everything God commands.

B. Hebrews 5:12-14

- Maturity is achieved by constant use of the Word.
- A disciple of Jesus is first fed milk, then solid food.
- When a disciple of Jesus is taught and trained in the word of God, he is then able to discern between good and evil.

C. I Peter 2:1-2

- A disciple of Jesus must rid himself of all these evil practices.
- He is to crave the pure spiritual milk of God’s Word so that he may mature in his salvation.

D. I Corinthians 3:1-2

- Young Christians are worldly and need to mature spiritually.
- Solid food is for the spiritually mature; Infants need the spiritual milk of the Word.

E. Titus 1:1

- The knowledge of the truth leads to godliness.

F. Malachi 3:2-3

- Jesus is the refiner, purifier and launderer’s soap. He washes us of sin (see Colossians 2:11-12; Titus 2:13-14; Rev. 1:5).
- Jesus purifies the Levites:
 - In the Old Testament, the Levites were the priests of Israel (see Deuteronomy 18:1; 27:9)
 - In the New Testament, the Christian is a priest (1 Peter 2:9)
- Jesus purifies us so that we may become presentable to God and calls us to be holy. (see Jude 24; 1 Peter 1:13-19)

What agents does God use to help us become mature and purified? That's where mentorship comes in.

The Five Agents of Mentorship

1. GOD HOLDS YOU ACCOUNTABLE

A. Hebrews 12:1-11

- The Lord disciplines those He loves: His children.
- Don't give up when you're disciplined - it's for your own good.
- If you are not disciplined, you are an illegitimate child and not a child of God.
- God's discipline causes you to live.
- His discipline brings about righteousness and holiness.
- Discipline seems unpleasant at the time, but its product is peace and righteousness.

B. 1Corinthians 11:32

- You are disciplined to avoid being condemned with the world.

2. THE WORD HOLDS YOU ACCOUNTABLE

A. 2Timothy 3:16, 17

- The Scriptures are given to us by inspiration of God.
- The Word of God teaches, corrects, and rebukes us.
- The Word trains us in God's righteousness.

3. THE CHURCH HOLDS YOU ACCOUNTABLE

A. 1Thessalonians 5:14, 15

- The brethren are to admonish, encourage, help, and be patient with one another.
- The brethren are to seek that which is good for one another.

B. Philippians 3:17

- We are encouraged to take note of those who according to the pattern of the Lord.

C. Hebrews 10:23-25

- We are to encourage each other to spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
- We are encouraged not to forsake the assembly.
- We cannot encourage others in the Church if we ourselves get into the habit of missing the assemblies.

4. WE HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE

A. Ezekiel 3:18-21

- Each of us is called to be our brother's/sister's keeper.
- We are called to encourage one another to continue in righteousness.
- Those who do not do this will be held accountable.

B. Hebrews 13:7, 17

- We are called to imitate the faith of those who lead us in the Lord (3John 1:1-- Imitate what is good).
- We are called to obey those who lead us in the Lord and to submit to them because they keep watch over you.
- Do not give those who are trying to teach and lead you a hard time. It will be unbeneficial to you if you do.

5. YOU HOLD YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE

A. 2Timothy 1:7

- God has given us the power to live disciplined lives.

B. 1Timothy 4:7,8

- We are to train ourselves to be godly.
- Godliness will hold promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

C. 1 Timothy 4:16

- Pay close attention to how you live your life and what you teach. Practice what you preach!
- Persevere in both your life and your doctrine so that you may save yourself and those who hear you.

It is through these five agents of mentorship that God will be able to call you higher, to purify you and make you holy and blameless so that He can present you to Himself with joy. His discipline strengthens us in our Christian walk and helps us to be better servants of our fellow men - in bringing them the good news of Christ and of the Kingdom of God.

DRAW NEAR TO GOD - HE DRAWS NEAR TO YOU

FLEE FROM GOD - SATAN DRAWS NEAR TO YOU

Day 1: Jesus, the Vision of God's Glory!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 17:4-5

Assignment: Make a list of the ways that you bring glory to God.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus' purpose in coming to the earth was to bring glory to God!

Why am I here? Countless people throughout generations have asked this question. God has created within man a need to know the reason for his existence. Jesus, as a man, knew the purpose of His life. He knew at a very young age that His purpose was to accomplish His Father's work. At twelve years old He would exclaim to His parents that He had to be in His Father's house doing His Father's business (Luke 2:49)! Jesus knew that He left the glory of Heaven to come to Earth to accomplish God's redemptive plan for man and thus bring glory to His Father. After all, men were created to bring "praise to God's glorious grace" (Ephesians 1:6). This was Jesus' purpose also.

1. John 17:4-5 – Jesus says plainly here that His purpose in coming to earth is to bring glory to God. This was accomplished by completing the work God sent him to do. Jesus' life wasn't an aimless series of unrelated events. No! His every hour and day was part of a master plan that was designed by God to ultimately bring glory to His name. Jesus had a purpose, which unfolded each and every day! Do your days bring glory to God?

2. John 12:27-28 – Jesus is faced with the cross! His heart is troubled! But despite the difficulty of facing the cross, His heart's desire was to glorify God. Jesus' life had moments of difficulty and challenge. But, no matter how difficult, He wouldn't disobey the Father's commands. He honored the Name of the Father, no matter how difficult things got. To Jesus, obedience was the only option. How many times have you disobeyed the Father when things get too difficult? How many times have you dishonored the holy Name of the Father?

3. John 1:14 – Jesus was the exact representation of God and therefore He revealed the glory of God by His existence. To see Jesus was to see the Father (John 14:9). Jesus was light (God is light) to a dark world revealing the true character of His Father. How exact of a representation of God are you to the world we live in? Do people see the glory of God by looking at your life?

Why did Jesus come to this earth? The simplest answer would be this: He came to bring salvation to all men. The complete answer would be this: He came to bring glory to God and one of the ways that was accomplished was by bringing salvation to all men. Why are you here on earth? Your purpose is to bring glory to God by obeying His commandments and help others to know Jesus and His message of salvation (See Eccl. 12:13; Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 16:15).

Day 2: Jesus, And His Purpose!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Luke 19:10

Assignment: Write a paragraph about the purpose of your life!

Lesson to Learn: Jesus was determined to fulfill the purpose of His life!

It seems we live in a generation void of any real purpose in life. There is no greater feeling of hopelessness than when we seem to be drifting aimlessly, without a firm reason for living. God gave us Jesus as the perfect example of a man who lived His life to fulfill His purpose. We are called to bring the love of God to others and to share His message of hope to a lost and dying world. Remember, no matter how busy we get with the urgencies of life, we must never lose sight of our inner need to accomplish what God has sent us here to do.

1. Luke 19:10 – "For the Son of man came to seek and save the lost". Jesus says this after He saves another person from their sins; a person that the religious people of the day did not feel was worthy to be saved. Jesus wasn't concerned with social structure or political correctness. He was concerned with fulfilling His purpose in life: saving souls! What is your purpose in life? Is it really saving souls or could it be marriage, raising children, careers, or school? Be honest with yourself! Can people see the purpose of Jesus' life in the way you live your life? Are you a true reflection of Jesus and His purpose on earth? Refer to II Corinthians 3:18 and I John 2:6 to help you understand this point.

2. Mark 1:35-39 – Jesus was so focused on His purpose in life that He would not let the urgent things of life deter Him from accomplishing His goal. His reputation had become known in the village to the point they wanted to keep Him there. But He would not be held back. He knew He had to go to other towns and villages to preach there also. Are there times in your life when you let the urgent keep you from accomplishing the important? What are some of those times?

3. Luke 13:31-33 – Jesus would reach His goal! He would fulfill His purpose! No man would hinder Him, even if that man was a king. Do you allow people to hinder you from reaching God's goal for your life? Do you allow important people like your family, friends, boss and teachers to keep you from doing what God wants? Do they hinder you from accomplishing your purpose? Make a list of areas in your life where you have allowed fear to keep you from accomplishing God's purpose in your life. Ask God to forgive you. Repent today, and then go out and do something radical!

Is your purpose in life to evangelize the world? Are you just as focused on your purpose for life today as the day you were baptized? Have you shared your faith with anyone this week? Are you building relationships with anyone in order to win that person to Christ? Let me give you a practical challenge: it's called the "One-A-Day Challenge". Share the message of Jesus with at least one person every day. Strive to set up a study with that person in order to help that person come to know Jesus and His love.

The words of this song says it all: *"Let them know! Let them know! Tell them Jesus loves them so. Loves them so much that to Calvary He did go. Let them know! Let them know! That they too can go to live forevermore with Jesus! Let them know! Let them know!"*

Day 3: Jesus and Obedience

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 6:38

Assignment: Make a list of five areas in your life where you are not obeying God!

Lesson to Learn: Jesus, although He was the Son of God, was not exempt from obeying His Father.

It would seem that Jesus should have received special favor from His Father in regards to the obedience that was expected from Him. After all, it was enough that Jesus emptied Himself of equality with God, but then he had to become a servant to all, as well (Philippians 2:5-11). But, not once do we read of Jesus asking for any special favors from God. As a matter of fact, the opposite seems to be the case. At the precise moment when Jesus needs God the most, when He is on the cross, the Father has to turn His back on Him. This was necessary if man was to be saved. Truly, God's love runs deep!

1. John 6:38 – Jesus declared that His purpose in coming to this world was to obey His Father. Could we say that it was our goal in life to obey our earthly fathers? Or, like most, were we waiting for the day when we would be old enough that we would no longer have to do what our fathers asked us? Even now as a disciple, is your purpose to obey God? Do you cherish the opportunity to be obedient or are you trying to get by with the least amount of obedience needed?

2. Hebrews 5:8 – Although He was the Son, He had to learn obedience through suffering. Jesus had to learn obedience! He was not born with the natural ability to obey. He was like us in that He had to be taught how to obey. And, His teacher was the suffering provided by God. Maybe that's why we aren't good at obeying. We don't view suffering as a teacher to help us be more perfect.

3. Matthew 26:39 – Obeying wasn't easy for Jesus. He had to wrestle with His own desires as He faced the will of God for His life. In this instance, as He sees the cross, He struggles with the shame and pain He was about to face (Hebrews 12:2). But the good news was that He would not allow His emotions to be the final authority in His life. How often do you allow your feelings to dictate whether you will obey God or not? This should never be, if we are going to imitate Jesus in every way.

What is your view towards obedience? Do you believe obedience is necessary? Do you see obedience as a means by which God is glorified? Do you see God's will being accomplished by obedience? Do you understand how suffering will perfect your ability to obey?

Day 4: Jesus, In Subjection to Leaders and Authorities

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Hebrews 5:7-9

Assignment: Make an extensive list of the people that have authority over you.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus was in subjection to the authorities God had placed in His life and we must be also.

It seems strange to think of Jesus, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, ever having to be in subjection to anyone. Jesus took on human form and became a servant (Philippians 2:7). In this lesson you will examine the areas of Jesus' life in which He was in subjection to His leaders and authorities.

1. Hebrews 5:7-9-- Jesus' prayers were empowered by His 'reverent submission'. A lifetime of fervent prayers only had meaning and purpose because Jesus learned obedience from the things that He suffered. He did not rebel against the authority in His life. He embraced it! Even the fact that He was a son did not exempt Him from obedience. How much more should we be willing to submit to the authorities God has placed in our life? And from this 'reverent submission' in our life we will empower our prayers.
2. Luke 2:51 -- Jesus was obedient to His parents. Even when his parents didn't understand Him or His purpose, He did not use this as an excuse to be disobedient or disrespectful (cf. John 2:1-11).
3. Matthew 3:13-17 – Jesus submitted to the will of God that was being preached by the prophet John, even though from a practical standpoint this was unnecessary. Jesus was a sinless man and yet, because God's prophet was preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4), He submitted to this. He says it is to fulfill all righteousness. How often do we disobey God or God's authorities in our life because we think that obedience is unnecessary or that it doesn't apply to us? Do we have the attitude of Jesus? In other words, do we want to fulfill all righteousness?
4. Matthew 23:1-4 -- Jesus expects us to obey the authorities in our life even if those authorities do not live up to the standard they are laying out. We must do what they say, but not what they do. We must even be in subjection to hypocritical leadership!

If Jesus obeyed the authorities in His life, can we live our lives free from obedience to those in authority? The obvious answer is “no”. List five reasons why you find it hard to be in subjection to people who have authority over you. Show this list to a close friend and ask him or her to comment on it.

Day 5: Jesus and His Dependence on God!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 5:30

Assignment: Make a list of areas in your life where you find it hard to depend on God.

Lesson to Learn: Depending on God is a sign of strength, not of weakness!

It would be hard to imagine that someone who had the power to make the Heavens and the Earth would find it impossible to do anything. And yet, Jesus, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, says that He can only do what He sees His Father doing. The relationship between Father and Son is one of absolute dependence. This is an example of perfect harmony and unity. That's why Jesus would be able to say with absolute certainty, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). Dependence seems to be a sign of weakness to many people, but in reality it is the ultimate sign of strength. It is easier to be independent. It takes incredible self-control to willingly depend on others, or on God. This is what Jesus' example shows us. Jesus was a man who totally died to His own desires and then depended on His loving Father to show Him the way. In this lesson we will examine how Jesus revealed His dependence on God and how this resulted in Him being more perfect!

1. John 5:30 – "By myself I can do nothing". Is this uttered by a frustrated man who has given up? Is this spoken by a man beaten down by life and whose confidence is shattered? No! This was spoken by the Son of God! By the God who is described as having no beginning and no end. By the God who needed no one to counsel Him when He laid the foundations of the earth! Is this a contradiction? Jesus drew His strength from His Father! He was able to accomplish as much as He did because He was leaning on God's strength and wisdom. If Jesus was this dependent on God, what should that say about our relationship with the Father? Since we are not as strong or as wise as Jesus, we must become more dependent on God to provide everything we need!

2. John 8:27-28 – The extent of Jesus' dependence on God can be seen in this verse, as He says that He would not speak words unless they were words He heard His Father speak. The perfect example of this dependent relationship was when they saw Him lifted up on the cross. How do people see that you are dependent on God? List three areas in your life where you are totally dependent on God. List three areas where you are not.

3. Luke 22:43-44 – At this moment in Jesus' life, He does not have the strength to carry on. He tells His disciples that His soul is "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (Matthew 26:38). Jesus would not have been able to fulfill God's will for His life! But God sent an angel to strengthen Him. What an example of love on the part of the Father, and dependence on the part of the Son!

Jesus understood that in order to have a strong, vibrant relationship with God, He needed to be totally dependent on Him. He looked to His Father for the strength He needed to fulfill the mission God gave Him. No one can argue with the results of Jesus' dependence on God, because it resulted in our salvation. The lesson we need to learn is that we must depend on God totally if we are to fulfill His will for our life. Independence only leads to sin!

Day 6: Jesus, the Perfect Imitator

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 5:19-21

Assignment: Make a list of areas in your mentor's life that you are imitating.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus grew rapidly in His faith because He imitated His Father!

Everyone is an imitator. As children, we learned quickly because we imitated the way people talk, walk, eat, sit or play. When we go to school, we learn through a combination of knowledge and repetition, but we learn to use that new knowledge through imitation!

As adults we are always imitating sports figures, clothing styles and of course, Hollywood! Why are people so afraid of this principle in religion? To imitate someone who is more spiritually mature than us goes against the worldly understanding of religion. Many people believe that religion is a private thing, which only involves the person and His God. However, the Scripture shows that man cannot learn of God except that another man shows him (see Romans 10:14-15). Also, no man can grow spiritually unless another man helps him. Imitation is the key to rapid and permanent change. Jesus imitated! He looked to the example of his Father but also to the example of the prophets who went before Him. In this way, He was able to grow strong spiritually. In this lesson we will see what Jesus believed in, and practiced the principle of imitation.

1. John 5:19-21 – Jesus was limited in what He could do. This was not based on His weakness or frailties but on the fact He could only do what He saw God do. If He couldn't imitate it, He couldn't do it. He believed in imitation. Everyone saw Jesus as such a radical. They heard His teaching and knew that He was different from their teachers. They saw His works and knew that He had come from God (John 3:1-3). Because He imitated, He was successful and radically different from anyone that they had ever seen before. Imitation works! Are you imitating God? Do you see God's character and immediately try to incorporate that into your character? Are you imitating Jesus and His commitment to learn by following the example of His Father? We must be, if we are to be the representatives of Jesus on earth in our day and age!

2. John 12:49-50 – Jesus' words were that which His Father gave Him. His Father had equipped Him to fulfill the task He had sent Him on. But Jesus did not only receive His words from God, but He was even taught how to say them by God. This is the principle of training and imitation, which we must follow if we are to be as successful as Jesus was.

Imitation is the key to rapid and permanent change. The world may not like the principle of imitating godly men as a key to growing spiritually, but it is obvious that Jesus believed and practiced this principle. Paul taught this principle when he told the Corinthian church to imitate him (I Corinthians 4:16). The Hebrew writer exhorts the disciples to imitate the faith of their leaders (Hebrews 13:7). The goal of a disciple is to be like Jesus in every way. Make a list of areas in your life that you want to change. After each area, write the name of the person you are imitating in order to make that change.

Day 7: Jesus, the Servant of All

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 13:1-17

Assignment: Make a list of the ways you can serve others more than you have been.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus, even though He was the Son of God, saw His need to serve all!

To be called a "servant" almost sounds derogatory. It has a negative connotation to it. Most people want to be served. If we had the choice to be the king or the slave, we would choose the king. Jesus came into this world as a slave to all. He should have been a king, born in a king's palace, but instead, He was born in a barn. His first bed was a feeding box for animals. He grew up in a small town. His parents were in a low-income family. He never went to the best schools or made it to university. His father was a carpenter and Jesus learned this trade growing up. Jesus, the man, had the most humble of beginnings. No one could ever tell from His circumstances that He was in reality the Son of God, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth. And beyond all this, Jesus took the very nature of a servant (Philippians 2:7). That was why He came! To serve all! What an example of humility and of love. In this lesson we will examine Jesus' heart toward serving.

1. Matthew 20:28 – Jesus states plainly here that His goal in coming to Earth was to serve people and not to be served. He viewed His life as one that must involve serving His fellow man. Do we see our purpose as that of being a servant to all men? Is your purpose in life to find ways to serve, or do you wait for people to serve you? When there is a need that is made known, do you immediately want to meet that need? Or, do you wait for someone else to volunteer? What would Jesus do?

2. John 13:1-17 – Jesus demonstrates to His disciples what His purpose was in life: not to wait for them to wash His feet but for Him to wash their feet. Jesus was setting an example that they could follow. He didn't just tell them to serve, He showed them how to serve.

3. Luke 22:24-29 – Jesus disciples were struggling with the sin of selfish ambition. They want to know who was the greatest. They wanted to know the pecking order. Who was supposed to serve whom? Jesus destroyed their way of thinking by telling them that the greatest is really the servant of all. Have you ever struggled with selfish ambition? Wanting to know who was greater? Wondering if it was you? This is so contrary to the nature and purpose of Jesus.

What is your attitude when you are asked to serve in the Children's Ministry? How about when you are asked to serve in the Men's Order of Service or asked to be a "fisherman" at the Good News Stand? Whatever we are asked to do, if we truly have the heart of Jesus, we will gladly serve in order that we may fulfill our purpose as servants of all! What Christian did you serve this week? What non-Christian did you serve this week? Let us all learn to rejoice in our role as servants!

Day 8: Jesus and His Friends

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 15:14-15

Assignment: Make a list of the Christians or non-Christians you are trying to befriend.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus, the Son of God, needed close friends in His life.

Sometimes it would be easy to see Jesus as a strong, independent man, never needing friends in His life. This would be a huge misunderstanding of the character of Jesus. He not only wanted close friendships, He needed them. Peter, James, John, Lazarus, Mary and Martha were all close friends who provided emotional support to the Son of God. Could you imagine being able to claim Jesus as a close, personal friend? Imagine having Jesus call you up on the phone to just chat? Imagine hanging out with Him at a dinner party, a wedding or at a picnic? Imagine working together with Jesus in furthering God's Kingdom? Imagine evangelizing with Jesus or having personal Bible studies with your friend and Jesus leading the studies? This is how friendship should be in God's Kingdom. In this lesson we will see Jesus and the relationship He had with His friends. And of course, from this we can make applications to our own lives.

1. John 15:14-15 – Jesus viewed His disciples as His friends. He didn't see them as projects or as spiritually unequal. He saw them as men who needed to be trained and taught. But most of all, He saw them as friends. Jesus shared everything with them that His Father had taught Him. Do you see those whom you mentor as your close friends? Or do you see those whom you mentor as people that have been “dumped” upon you by your leaders? Do you share everything with those whom you mentor?
2. Luke 22:14-16 – Jesus is about to go to the cross. He knows it. Before He faces His death, what He wants most is to spend time with His closest friends. That is why He tells them: “*I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer*”. He needed His emotional needs to be taken care of by His friends. When you are feeling emotionally down, with whom do you desire to be?
3. John 11:3, 5, 36 – Jesus didn't just have close relationships with His disciples, but also with others. Lazarus, Mary and Martha were dear friends that He went to see often. He was often over at their house eating and fellowshiping with them (John 12:1-3, Luke 10:38-42). Do you have close relationships others within the Body of Christ? Who do you feel close to that is not within your mentorship meetings?
4. Luke 19:1-10 – Jesus was able to make friends quickly with those people who were not Christians. He was able to pull both the rich and the poor into His life. Zacchaeus, a wealthy, chief tax collector vowed to pay back four times the amount he was expected to. He was excited because Jesus had become his guest. By that gesture, Jesus was basically telling Zacchaeus: “*I want to be your friend*”. Jesus was not afraid to make friends with non-Christians. Do you feel uncomfortable calling non-Christians “friends”? Jesus also did this with Matthew (Luke 5:27-32).

Friendships are very important to all people. Life is more fun when we have close friends to share it with. Jesus needed friends in His life and so do we. We must always be making new friends so we can win them for the Lord. In the process we will also have our own emotional needs met as these friends are added to our life.

Day 9: Jesus and Openness

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Matthew 26:36-46

Assignment: Make a list of feelings or emotions you have not been open about and share them with a close, spiritual friend.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus was very real about His feelings and emotions, but He never allowed them to keep Him from obeying His Father.

It is hard to imagine that Jesus had feelings that were negative or He had an unhappy or an emotional day. It's easier to see Him in control of every emotion or negative thought or that He was always upbeat, happy and above the feelings which so easily ensnare us. This picture is inaccurate! He was a man. As such, He had to wrestle with the emotions that come with being human. "But we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are --yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). This is proof of the fact Jesus had to deal with His emotional nature but would not give in to it. There is great comfort in knowing that Jesus understands how difficult it is to control human emotions. What is also encouraging is to know that Jesus never pretended to be something He was not. He was always very honest and open about how He was feeling! He was not superficial or fake about the challenges He faced. He shared those feelings with the people He was close too. This was so He could overcome those feelings and not submit to them. In this lesson we are going to examine the way that Jesus was so real about His feelings, but how He never allowed those feelings to keep Him from obeying His Father.

1. John 11:33-35 – Jesus was "*deeply moved in spirit and troubled*". He was not a rock that was impervious to feeling pain. He was a very compassionate man who saw the pain of His friends, Mary and Martha and responded to it. His tears are real. They are the tears of a man who loves people deeply and can feel the pain of others. As a man, He is not afraid to be emotional. He saw tears as a part of life. Just imagine the Son of God crying because you lost a loved one. Are you afraid of emotion in your life? Do you find it hard to empathize with someone who is hurting? Do you cover up your pain so no one will see it?
2. John 13: 21-27 – It is but a few hours before His death at this point. He knows that Judas will betray Him. In anguish, He tells all what He knows and what He is feeling. Jesus had to feel the pain of knowing that Judas, His friend, was about to betray Him for money. But He is open about this with His disciples. He doesn't hide it or ignore it. He shares it. When you are hurt, how do you react? Do you pretend that there is no pain? Do you act like everything is all right?
3. Matthew 26:36-46 – Jesus tells His friends that He is so sad that He could physically die. The challenge of the cross weighs heavily upon Him at this moment. He is emotionally honest with His disciples. He needed their moral support, but their exhaustion prevented them from being of any help. Jesus didn't deny His feelings. He shared his feelings and prayed about them. But despite His challenges, He obeyed God's will for His life. We must learn to be real with the challenges we face as Christians. Be open and honest about them. Pray about them and then obey God's will for your life.

Jesus was very real with His feelings and emotions. He never allowed them to keep Him from doing what God wanted but that did not prevent Him from sharing those feelings with the people He loved. We must learn to have this balance in our lives if we are to face the challenges that God has laid out for us. Sometimes, by denying what we feel, we give the devil an opportunity to create bitterness or hypocrisy in our lives. This can never be. Always be open! And obey God!

Day 10: Jesus, Doing It Right!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Mark 7:31-37

Assignment: Make a list of the areas in your life where you need to make a greater effort for excellence than you have been making.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus, as the reflection of God's Glory, always did His best in all that He did.

It is very hard to live life perfectly. To always do a good job as a spouse, a parent, an employee, a student, or as a Christian is very challenging. Sometimes, because of failure, it seems easier not to try at all. Jesus had the same challenges that we do, but He was able to do all things well. He struggled with the weakness of the flesh as we all do, but He was able to overcome it. In this lesson, we will examine Jesus' attitude toward the work God had given Him and how He accomplished it. We will examine how it was possible for Jesus to always keep the level of excellence high in His life.

1. Mark 7:31-37 – The people of Jesus' day were astonished at what Jesus was able to do. They were also astonished at the level of excellence with which He accomplished these feats. It would be hard to imagine people saying this about us! How hard it is to do all things well. But practice makes perfect. We must never allow our inadequacies to be an excuse for giving less than our best. Training only comes through trial and error. Therefore, to give up because we are not perfect is contrary to the concept of being a disciple of Jesus. That is why we are being trained.
2. Matthew 9:33 – The crowd is amazed at Jesus' ability to cast out demons. Jesus gave evidence to the fact that He was able to do many, many things well. As Christians, we must always be willing to grow in our abilities. We should attempt new things all the time in order that we might become better at them. So often we are only willing to attempt things that we know we are good at. Are you afraid of doing certain things because you think you will fail? Pray about this and then try it.
3. Hebrews 9:26-28 – Jesus was able to accomplish the work God sent Him to do. What He did was done right, so that no other sacrifice need ever be made in our behalf. His work ethic was incredible! He wanted to do God's Will and He wanted to do it quickly and accurately. Is this your attitude? Do you procrastinate doing what you know you should? When you finally do it, is it done with a complacent attitude? Are you willing to give a wholehearted effort in all you do? What would Jesus desire of you and what would He do?

Jesus is an incredible example of a man who had a very high standard for Himself. He always wanted to give His best for God. Since it is for God that we do all we do, shouldn't we always give 100%? Certainly, from an intellectual standpoint this makes sense, but does it make sense from a practical standpoint? Let us never allow insecurities about our abilities determine the level of our effort. Being imperfect is the reality of being human, but there is never an excuse for a poor effort.

Day 11: Jesus, a Joyful, Grateful Man!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 17:1-19

Assignment: Make a list of the ten things in your life you are most grateful for.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus was a man under constant pressure, but that did not keep Him from being happy or grateful.

The religious world has a picture of Jesus as a very burdened, misunderstood and unhappy man. This is far from the truth. Jesus lived a life of constant pressure as He tried to accomplish God's Will for His life. He knew the task before Him was not easy. Yet, He did not become sullen or ungrateful. Gratitude is a direct result of the level of joy we have in our life. Do you not find it easier to be thankful when your life is filled with joy? In this lesson we will see how Jesus was always able to keep a joyful attitude.

1. John 17:13 – Jesus was filled with joy. He wanted His disciples to experience His joy. It was one of His goals to leave them filled with joy. His prayer is that His Father would fill His disciples with joy. Are you filled with joy? Jesus makes this statement a few hours before He would die on the cross. He did not allow the circumstances of His life to destroy the inner joy that He had. Are you happy only when everything is going right? Do you have a joy that you can share with others? Do you have a joy that can fill others?

2. John 11:41-44 – Jesus is filled with joy and thankfulness in the midst of other peoples' sorrow. He also thanks God for something that hasn't happened yet. Jesus had prayed about this and before God can answer His prayer, Jesus thanks Him. This is an example of faith and gratitude working hand in hand. Do you have faith that God will hear your prayers? Do you thank God for hearing your prayers before they are answered? When others are sad, can you bring a sense of joy and gratitude to them that will affect them?

3. Luke 10:1-24 – Jesus had a very optimistic point of view. This is one of the reasons He was filled with gratitude and joy. In this situation, it would be easy to be discouraged, as so very few people understood who Jesus was and the purpose of His coming. However, Jesus sees the situation from an entirely different perspective. He thanks God because only the pure of heart can discern the truth. He sees the glass as half full and not half empty. Pessimism only leads to faithlessness, ingratitude and unhappiness. Are you someone who can see the good in every situation? Do you struggle with pessimism?

Jesus was a happy, fulfilled and grateful man. Are you? As followers of Jesus we should be. What do you have to change in order to be that way? Our joy springs from hearts that are filled with gratitude for all God has done for us. Think about the things God has done in your life and you will feel a genuine happiness. Make a list of those things. Fill your prayers with gratitude. Often, this is one of the most effective ways of finding out if we are truly grateful. Jesus' prayers were filled with thankfulness. From that, we can conclude that He was happy. Many times our prayers are only filled with requests. Therefore, let's fill our hearts and prayers with the joy that Jesus has poured out upon us!

Day 12: Jesus and Money

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Matthew 6:19-24

Assignment: Make a list of the areas where money has affected your commitment to God.

Lesson to Learn: Although Jesus could have been very rich, He always remembered His purpose in coming to Earth.

"You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matthew 6:24b). What an exclusive statement Jesus makes here! There is no gray area here. Jesus knew the greatest temptation in a relationship with God would be a person's love of money, but Jesus had to face these temptations also. He grew up in a poor family. When He began His ministry, He would have been able to generate large amounts of capital. At one point, people even wanted to make him king (cf. John 6:14-15). It would have been so easy for Jesus to submit to the temptation of an easy, carefree life. He could have used His talents and gifts to fulfill His own needs and desires, but He did not. He would not attempt to serve God and Money! In this lesson we will see how Jesus handled His money and what was His attitude toward it.

1. Luke 16:13-15 – Jesus believed that the love for money is detestable in God's sight. He saw many people that had sold themselves to the goal of gaining money. These people were the religious leaders of Jesus' day. How opposite of what God wants! Jesus knows we need money to live, but He wants us to love Him above all! Let's see if this was Jesus' attitude.

2. Luke 8:1-3 – Jesus' way of providing for Himself and His disciples was based on the generosity of some women. Had He wanted to, He could have made money by simply catching fish (see Matthew 17:24-27). Jesus, the Son of God, fed Himself while He was preaching and teaching God's Word by waiting on the generosity of the people He affected. How faithful are you right now about your financial situation? Are your thoughts filled with worries because you think you don't have enough money to provide for your needs? Do you believe God knows what your needs are and that He is able to meet them?

3. Matthew 22:15-22 – Jesus paid taxes! He didn't have much money Himself, but He still felt the need to obey the law (see Matthew 17:24-27). Jesus never used His position as God's Son to exempt Himself from the requirements of citizenship, but He always made the distinction between "giving to Caesar that which is his and to God that which is His". Do you pay your debts? Do you honor the commitments you have made financially? Do you give to God that which is His?

4. John 13:29 – Jesus was poor Himself and yet, He gave money to feed the poor. It's a matter of perspective. There will always be someone in a worse financial situation than you, but do we dismiss meeting their needs by thinking we are too poor to be of any help? This was not Jesus' heart.

Money can be a very dangerous spiritual adversary. Jesus knew this. That's why He did not amass any money Himself. When He died, His clothes were all He owned and these were divided among the guards. Jesus died a poor man physically, but rich spiritually. Jesus is an outstanding example of love and commitment.

Day 13: Jesus, the Perfect Mentor -- Part 1 -- The Basis for Jesus' Mentorship

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Mark 1:16-18

Assignment: Make a plan of action as to how you will incorporate the principles of this lesson into the lives of those whom you mentor.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus, as the perfect mentor, can teach us how to mentor others.

Jesus was the best mentor that ever walked the face of the earth. He obeyed God perfectly. Jesus is therefore the perfect role model for us to follow as we try to mentor others. In this lesson, we will examine the basis of Jesus' mentorship. He had a standard that He used in calling others to be His disciples.

1. Matthew 4:15-16; 11:10; 13:14-15, 15:8-9 – Jesus was always quoting the Scriptures to His disciples. He saw the Bible as the basis for all training that His disciples received. Although the New Testament had not been written yet, Jesus preached and taught His disciples using the Old Testament.
2. Mark 10:32 – Jesus was always leading the way. He never commanded His disciples to do something He Himself was not willing to do. He inspired His disciples by the example He set. Some were so impressed with His example that they were either astonished or afraid. Do you lead the way for those whom you mentor? Do you challenge them to do things that you are afraid to do yourself? Do you help them accomplish the challenges you give them (cf. Matthew 23:4)?
3. Mark 1:16-18 – Jesus had a purpose for His disciples. He did not call them to follow Him so that they could merely hang out, or have great parties, or watch movies, or just to be great friends. His purpose for His disciples was for them to be fishers of men. What purpose are you giving those whom you mentor? Do you talk about this purpose often? Do you pray together about this purpose?
4. John 17:6 – Jesus' goal for His disciples was to reveal God to them. He knew that in so doing they would grow spiritually! Using this motivation can change people more quickly than any other. Do you have as a goal to reveal God to those whom you mentor? How would you do that?
5. John 15:15 – Jesus was a great disciple Himself. He imitated His Father and that is why He was able to teach His disciples about imitation. Since He imitated God, He was not afraid to call His disciples to imitate Him. Only when a person has learned to be a great disciple can they teach anyone else how to be a disciple. Are you a great imitator of Christ? Is the person whom you mentor a great imitator of Christ? If not, maybe the problem is that you haven't learned to be a great imitator of Christ yourself.

Jesus had a standard that He used in training His disciples. It was necessary if they were to become fully trained. Do you use the same standard that Jesus used? If not, why not? Do you use the Bible to train people? Do you set the example yourself? Do you know what the purpose of discipleship is? Do you reveal God to those whom you mentor? Are you a good disciple yourself? These were the standards Jesus used, and so must we.

Day 14: Jesus, the Perfect Mentor – Part 2 – Building a Relationship

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: John 13:1-5

Assignment: Make a plan as to how you can build a better relationship with your disciples.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus saw His disciples as friends before He saw them as disciples.

Jesus could be described as a man on a mission. As such, we might think He was too busy to spend time building relationships with people. This is not true. Jesus knew the value for Himself and for His disciples of having a friendship with the men He was mentoring. Every mentoring relationship should be, first and foremost, a friendship relationship. In this lesson, we will see Jesus' attitude toward the men He was mentoring.

1. John 13:1-5 – Jesus loved the men He was mentoring. This is very important to understand, as Jesus did not just give His disciples ministry techniques, but He gave them His heart. He demonstrated His love in so many ways. By serving them, teaching them, believing in them, having vision for them and yes, even sometimes, by rebuking them. Do those whom you mentor know that you love them? Make a list of things you can better do to demonstrate your love to those whom you mentor.

2. John 15:15 – Jesus saw these men He had chosen to be His disciples as His friends. Jesus knew that His friendship with these men would compel them to do more for God than if he simply told them what to do! As friends, they shared in Jesus' life. Later, when the apostles would all end up giving their lives for God, it would be the friendship with Jesus that they would remember, not the amazing ministry techniques Jesus taught them. Are you close friends with those whom you mentor? Why or why not?

3. Mark 3:13-15 – Jesus spent time with His disciples. It was the only way for Jesus to affect them. They saw His life and He saw their life. There is no substitute for time spent together. Do you have a regular mentorship time with those whom you mentor? Do you spend time with them outside from meeting times?

4. Matthew 5:1-2 – Jesus taught His disciples. Since the Bible is the standard for teaching spiritual things, it is only natural that the Bible be discussed when Christians get together. Jesus knew that through teaching, He could mature His disciples so that they would be able to withstand the schemes of Satan. Do you have Bible study in your mentorship meetings?

5. John 17:6-19 – Jesus prayed for His disciples. There is no better way to improve your relationship than to bring your friend's name before God's throne! Do you pray for those whom you are mentoring each and every day?

Often mentorship relationships fail because they are not built upon the foundation of friendship. Jesus was going to entrust the building of His church to these men He had chosen. In order to ensure that they would be successful they needed more than religious training. They needed friendship! No one would argue with Jesus' success as His disciples evangelized their world. It would only make sense to imitate His heart in this area.

Day 15: Jesus, the Perfect Mentor – Part 3 – The Training Begins

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Mark 3:13-19

Assignment: Make a list of the things you want to do that will help train those whom you mentor.

Lesson to Learn: Jesus knew that He needed to train His disciples to carry on when He was gone or the message of the cross would be lost to the next generation.

Train, train, train! This was Jesus' mindset. His role was to die and pay the price of our sins. If this message were not shared with people, His sacrifice would have been wasted. So, He knew that He had to prepare His disciples to carry on when He left. He had about three years to prepare them for the most important role they would ever have, the role of being God's spokesmen! In this lesson we see how Jesus trained His disciples. He was the Master Trainer as His disciples were able to fulfill His plan, which was to evangelize the world they lived in.

1. Luke 6:12-14 – Jesus needed to focus on the right people to train. He needed to be able to have an impact on a small number of people, who in turn could have impact on others. He spent the whole night in prayer as He chose the twelve men He would call His disciples. This was one of the most important decisions He ever made. Even though you may not have personally chosen those whom you mentor, do you feel as if you have made a decision to focus on them to train them?

2. Mark 3:13-19 – After Jesus had chosen His disciples, He made it very clear as to the purpose of this relationship. He wanted to train them to evangelize His world. He made sure they knew this! Do those whom you mentor know the purpose of the relationship you have with them? Have you made it clear to them?

3. Matthew 17:1-13 – Jesus was always doing things that He knew would inspire His disciples. It was important that they were spiritually inspired to new heights in their lives. Peter would remember this incident many years later as he wrote in 2 Peter 1:16-18. Do you inspire those whom you mentor? How could you inspire them?

4. Matthew 16:13-20 – Jesus was always looking for ways to encourage His disciples. They were not always the most perceptive people, and yet, Jesus wanted to encourage the smallest success. This would build their confidence for future tasks. Do you encourage those whom you mentor? Do you think of ways to build them up (see Hebrews 10:24)?

5. Matthew 16:21-23 – In this passage Jesus rebukes Peter. This is a part of the training all disciples need if they are to understand the deeper principles of righteousness. Often, we are afraid of receiving a rebuke or of giving one. We have a very worldly view toward rebukes. But Jesus used a rebuke to open the eyes of His disciples to the truths they were missing. Do you get an attitude if someone rebukes you? Do you see this as a part of the training you need? Do you feel unloved when you are rebuked? See Psalm 141:5; Proverbs 27:5-6.

6. Mark 6:30 – Jesus gave His disciples tasks to fulfill. Afterwards, the disciples would report on how they did. By this, Jesus could then correct any mistakes made by the disciples. He held His disciples accountable! Accountability was one way He used to refine their abilities and skills. Do you resent accountability in your life? Are you hesitant to hold others accountable?

Followers of Jesus are called to train others in the way of Jesus (Matthew 28:20). Training is a continuous process in our lives and in the lives of those whom we mentor!

Day 16: The Disciple as a Vision of God's Glory

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Ephesians 1:3-6

Assignment: Make a list of the purposes you have as a disciple of Jesus.

Lesson to Learn: The purpose of a Christian's life is to bring glory to God!

What is the reason that God chose you as His child? Why are we disciples of Jesus Christ? We saw Jesus' role in coming to Earth was to bring glory to His Father through His actions. Bringing salvation to all men was part of the role that Jesus had. As Christians, our purpose is to bring glory to God through our actions. Our lives are testimony to the world of the grace of God at work. Sharing the Gospel with the lost is one of the most important ways that we can bring glory to God. However, it is not the only way to glorify God. It would be of no glory to God to share your faith daily and yet have an adulterous relationship that no one knows about, or to be studying the Bible with people and yet not teach our children the truths of God's Word. As in all areas, we must have a balance that will then give glory to God.

1. Ephesians 1:3-6 – God chose us to be disciples before the world was even created. He saw us as His children before the first atom or molecule was brought into existence. Why did He choose us? The Bible says it was to the praise of His glorious grace! In others words, it was so that people would praise God because of His choice. God wants us to bring praise to His name. This is the underlying purpose behind everything that we do. Why are you a disciple? Do you see clearly the purpose for God choosing you to be His disciple?
2. Acts 2:42-47 – The first Christians had many aspects to their new lives. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They were very benevolent as they shared what they had with those who had a need. The result is that God was praised! Their new Christian lives were fulfilling a purpose that God had for them. Then, the natural consequence of this was that they grew in numbers. Growth was a natural by-product of their lives. People were attracted to what they saw and therefore became Christians. Do you see yourself as having the same purpose as these Christians? What do you need to change? Do you think your life is attractive to those in the world?
3. 1Peter 4:11 – The Christian must be able to look at his life and know that he is glorifying God in all areas. Peter said *that in all things God may be praised!* What a specific direction he gives us here for our lives! Can you say with confidence that in all things your life brings praise to God?
4. John 21:18-19 – God expects us to glorify Him in all areas of our life, even in our death. Jesus looked at Peter and expected him to imitate in all areas. Peter's death would glorify God. Do you see yourself so committed to your purpose as a disciple that you would even glorify God in your death? When a disciple doesn't fulfill his purpose, he will feel that his life is pointless. Many times, what is really the case is that the Christian doesn't understand his purpose. What he may be actually doing is not fulfilling some aspect of his Christianity. We are called to be lights in the world. Our deeds must cause others to give praise to our Father who is in Heaven (see Matthew 5:14-16).

Day 17: The Disciple's Purpose

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

Assignment: Talk to a close, spiritual friend about the convictions you have received from this lesson and then share the changes you will make.

Lesson to Learn: As disciples of Jesus, our purpose must be to make disciples, who in turn can make disciples!

Have you ever wondered why God wants the message of Jesus to be shared with all people? Since man's purpose in being created is to bring glory to God, it therefore makes sense that the greater number of people who know this, the greater God will be glorified! God is not the president of a corporation whose only concern is the bottom line. He is a loving Father who wants all people to be adopted as His children. It is the responsibility of His other children to share His message of love and grace. A child of God who does not talk about his Father has lost focus as to why he was adopted. He does not demonstrate appreciation for God choosing him to be a son. He has stopped walking as his big brother Jesus walked! In this lesson we will examine the purpose the disciples in the first century had, and then apply the same purpose to our lives.

1. Mark 1:16-18 – Jesus made it very clear to His first disciples what He expected from them. They were to become "fishers of men." Later they would learn that this meant all men, Gentiles included. This was a very new concept for the Jewish people. Are you as committed to this purpose as the day you were baptized?
2. Matthew 28:18-20 – Jesus now expands the scope of disciple-making to include all men. But, He adds a new concept here also. He wants His disciples to make disciples who can make other disciples. God did not want the message of the cross to die with one generation. He wants that message to be heard by all men. God does not want addition. He wants multiplication!
3. Acts 2:40-41 – In this chapter, Jesus' disciples are fulfilling the purpose He has for them as they are preaching and teaching and making disciples. There are three thousand people who are baptized in one day. Part of the plan of Matthew 28 is being fulfilled. Were the apostles able to fulfill the second part, which was to make disciples who could make disciples?
4. Acts 8:1, 4 – The persecution begins in earnest against the church. The church was scattered everywhere, but the apostles remain behind in Jerusalem. These new Christians, who were facing an intense persecution, were scattered everywhere. They used this as an opportunity to preach wherever they went. The apostles were able to make disciples who were able to make disciples. Multiplication took place and not simply addition! Would you remain as committed to Jesus if you had to face the persecution these disciples faced? Would you still share your faith and make disciples?

As a disciple of Jesus, do you understand that your purpose is to make disciples who will make disciples? Have you ever brought someone to Christ? Has that person, in turn, brought someone to Christ? This is God's plan for evangelizing the world we live in. Make a commitment today to fulfill God's plan for your life. Pray about it. Talk about your convictions with a close, spiritual friend. Then, go and make disciples who will make disciples! May God's Kingdom be filled and His name praised through your message!

Text: John 14:23-25

Assignment: Make a list of areas in your life where you could obey God more completely.

Lesson to Learn: As disciples of Jesus, our goal must be to obey everything God asks, no matter how hard it seems.

Obedience in the life of a young Christian can sometimes be easier than when we get older. This would seem to be contrary to what we expect. Initially, as a young Christian, everything is new and exciting. If we are not careful, as we get older, we can lose that zeal we possessed at first. One area that is often neglected is the area of obedience. We replace our old worldly actions with new religious ones. We can feel these religious actions replace the necessity of obedience. God has never wanted this! "*To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*" 1 Samuel 15:22. In this lesson we will examine the need we all have to grow in our ability to obey God.

1. Matthew 28:20 – Jesus expects His disciples to teach other disciples how to obey God. Obedience is not a natural response: it is a trained response. Jesus' goal in life was to be obedient to His Father. Since Jesus was obedient to the Father, He expects His disciples to be obedient to God as well. Are you being trained to obey God? Is obedience a priority in your relationship with God?

2. John 14:23-25 – Jesus sees love as obedience. Saying, "I love Jesus," and being disobedient towards Jesus is a contradiction (see 1 John 2:4-6). To be disobedient to Jesus is to actually hate Him! Jesus said, "*If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching*". Do you love Jesus? Do you obey Jesus? Would other people see how much you love Jesus by how much you obey Him?

3. Acts 5:29 – Jesus was able to impart this attitude of obedience into the hearts of His disciples. It would have been very easy for Peter to submit to the pressure the religious leaders were bringing upon him. But he knew that he could not. He was compelled to obey God and not men. With his attitude, God would be able to use Peter in a great way in furthering His Kingdom. Are your convictions about obedience as deep as Peter's were? Are you training those whom you are mentoring to obey everything Jesus commanded in the same way Jesus was able to train His disciples?

Obedience is something we all can do. It is not dependent on talent or education or wealth. All we need is a humble and responsive heart that loves God above all. The more we learn to obey the easier obedience becomes. When we are trained to obey, we will become more and more effective at it. This is God's plan for every disciple of Christ.

Day 19: The Disciple in Subjection to Leaders and Authorities!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: 1Corinthians 16:13-18

Assignment: Write a letter of encouragement to your mentor or anyone who spiritually leads and encourages you, expressing your thankfulness for their love and service.

Lesson to Learn: The Christian must have a heart that is willing to be in subjection to those who spiritually lead them in the ways of the Lord. This pleases the Lord and causes one to grow spiritually.

There seems to be no more controversial an issue in religious circles today than the one concerning Christians being in subjection to spiritual leaders. We live in an independent age, where people pride themselves on their self-sufficiency. For many, subjection is a sign of weakness or inadequacy. This is not a spiritual mindset at all. Jesus had to learn to be in subjection to the authorities in His life, and so must we. God designed salvation to be found through the help of other humans (see Romans 10:14-15). This was so no man would be prideful and independent. Jesus expects His disciples to be in subjection to the authorities in their life! In this lesson we will examine the need we have to be in subjection in order that we will grow spiritually and that we would please God.

1. Romans 13:1-7 – Disciples must be in subjection to the governing authorities. Not just the governments that are democratic, but as was the case when Paul wrote this, even if they are harsh and unjust (see 1 Peter 2:13-18). We must pay our taxes and in every way be model citizens. This was the example that Jesus gave us. Do you view governments as ordained by God?
2. 1Corinthians 16:13-18 – Paul expected Christians to be in subjection to those people who worked hard at serving the saints. Their lives were proof of the fact that they poured themselves out for the church. Therefore, it was only right that they accept their leadership and be in subjection to them.
3. Hebrews 13:17 – God commands us to obey our spiritual leaders! God will hold people who lead in the church accountable for those whom they lead. We must never make their leadership a burden. The verse states that if you make their work a burden, this would be of no advantage to you. God will judge us for this. A Christian cannot grow spiritually if he is unwilling to learn the secret of being in subjection. His pride will ensure that God will oppose him (see James 4:6). If he, in humility, accepts the authorities in his life, then God will bless him.

Christians must be in subjection to governments, as well as the leaders of God's church. God will never bless us if we are in rebellion to authorities. When we rebel to what is right, we are, in reality, rebelling against God! When we, in humility, accept God's leadership in our life then God can bless us richly!

Day 20: The Disciple and His Dependence on God

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Galatians 3:1-3

Assignment: Make a list of the things you asked advice about in the last week.

Lesson to Learn: A Christian must learn to totally depend on God if he is to grow spiritually.

God promises forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who hear and believe the Gospel, repent of their sins and are immersed in the watery grave of baptism (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). It is impossible to begin the Christian journey without the help of the Holy Spirit, for He “*helps us in our weakness*” (Romans 8:26a). There is, however, a great temptation to try to do things by our own strength. The challenge that every disciple of Jesus faces is to learn to depend totally on God. His spiritual life will only reach higher levels if he has a humble heart, and allows God to fill him with strength and wisdom. In this lesson, we will examine some areas that a Christian should learn to depend on God more.

1. Galatians 3:1-3 – Paul was upset at the Church at Galatia because they had returned to the Law of Moses as the means to be spiritually perfected. He reminds them that this is impossible. They were born through the Spirit and would have to be perfected through the Spirit! Do you live your life as one who is empowered by God? Do you pray daily for God's strength to enable you to accomplish His will?

2. Philippians 4:13 – Paul was convinced that he could do anything if God would supply the strength. Nothing is impossible for God! The limiting factor is whether or not we depend on God to give us our strength. God's wisdom and strength are immeasurable. Do you believe that you can do anything through the strength that God supplies? Does your life reflect this dependence on God?

3. Proverbs 15:22 – One of the areas to measure whether we depend on God or not is in the area of seeking advice. The Bible teaches that when we seek counsel our plans will succeed. Why do we not seek advice more? Often the problem is our pride that prevents us from being humble before a wiser brother or sister and asking for input. Do you seek advice for the plans that you make? Do you feel more than competent to make all decisions for your life? If you do, you are not relying on God.

4. Proverbs 11:14 – Everyone would like to have 'sure victories' to venture forth, knowing that you will win. This is only possible if we have advisers who will give us spiritual advice. God assures us that we will win the victory! Are you a person who is known for getting advice? Do people challenge you on your independence?

5. Acts 15:1-21 – A large problem had arisen in the Church when some began to teach that Christians must return to the Law to be saved. Paul, as an apostle, had the authority to deal with this problem. However, they traveled to Jerusalem to seek the wisdom and advice of the apostles and elders there. Paul was not angry because he had to do this, nor was he threatened. He had faith that God's wisdom would be revealed. When the council makes a decision, it is Paul who carries this message to the Churches. Would you have the same humility as Paul did? Do you get angry if someone questions your decisions?

Relying on God brings peace and tranquility. When a Christian relies on himself for all the strength he needs, he will feel isolated and alone. Seeking wisdom and advice from mature disciples will test the degree of your humility. Victory is assured if we ask other mature Christians for advice.

Day 21: The Disciple Must Imitate Spiritual Examples!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: 1Corinthians 4:14-17

Assignment: Make a list of five people that you are imitating and give reasons why you are imitating them.

Lesson to Learn: Imitation is a spiritual principle that can be used to make quick and permanent changes in your life.

In every Christian's life there comes a time when you are faced with the challenge of trying to change some deep-rooted sin or to correct some character weakness. Initially, young Christians will find it easy to change the surface sins that they were involved with when they were in the world. After those first few layers of change are made, there comes the greater challenge of changing the core sins. The secret to making these changes is found in the spiritual principle of imitation. When we imitate someone more mature than us, it allows us to make changes quickly and permanently. The greatest hindrance to imitation is found in our pride, which will hold us back from accepting someone as more mature than us. In this lesson we will examine how we all need to imitate others in order to grow.

1. 1Corinthians 11:1 – Paul commands Christians to follow his example. He was not afraid to have people imitate his life. Some might think that he was being arrogant and prideful. Paul gave this command through the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is God's plan for disciples, not Paul's. See Philippians 3:17 and 1 Thessalonians 1:6.
2. Hebrews 13:7 – The Hebrew writer instructs the Christians to obey those who lead them in the way of the Lord. He tells them to consider the outcome of their way of life and to imitate their faith. Do you imitate the faith of those who mentor you?
3. Acts 4:13 – The extraordinary changes the enemies of Jesus saw in the apostles could only be attributed to the fact that the apostles had been with Jesus. They saw Jesus' character in the apostles. The apostles changed from fearful, faithless men through the power of the Holy Spirit, and because of this they began to imitate Jesus. Imitation was the key for them to make quick and permanent changes in their life. Have you ever made such radical changes in your character that people understood it was a result of your imitating Jesus?
4. Acts 7:54-60 – Stephen imitates Jesus perfectly as he is dying. The words he uses and the prayer he prays reminds us of what Jesus said when He was dying. The disciples of the first century focused on this spiritual principle of imitation. As a result, they were able to make quick and permanent changes in their lives.

Every disciple of Jesus should want to grow to be more like Jesus. How can they accomplish this goal? Do what the Hebrew writer said: imitate the faith of those who spiritually lead you (Hebrews 13:7). Paul told the Corinthian Church to follow his example as he follows the example of Christ (1Corinthians 11:1). This is the spiritual principle God has laid out which will allow us to make quick and permanent changes in our lives.

Day 22: The Disciple as a Servant!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Ephesians 4:11-12

Assignment: Make a list of how God's grace has motivated you to serve others.

Lesson to Learn: When a Christian has a servant's heart, he is fulfilling one of the roles God has chosen for His children.

One of the ways we can demonstrate to the world that we are truly different is in the area of service. The joy and peace that we have as Christians is evident when we serve in some areas where the world is involved. They see us giving blood, working in the Food Bank or helping those in need. They do not understand the energy we have or the patience we demonstrate. The greatest workers in any company should always be Christians. We do everything to bring glory to God, no matter how trivial or mundane the work. This is what God planned for His children. We are lights to the world and the world gives glory to God as they see our good deeds. In this lesson, we will examine the attitude a disciple should possess as servants to all.

1. Ephesians 4:11-12 – God's plan involves Christians being matured and perfected so that they can be effective in works of service. We receive from others so that we can give to others. If a Christian only receives, he will become stagnant and useless. A Christian must give to others. Only then will he fulfill God's purpose for his life. Do you see your role as that of a servant of all?

2. 1Corinthians 15:9-10 – What motivates a Christian to serve or work hard? Paul teaches us that it is God's grace. When a Christian understands that he has been given a second chance, that grace has saved him, he will be motivated to work hard. Do you feel that you are motivated by God's grace? Do you resent having to drive people home, to serve in the Children's Ministry, or baby-sit for married Christians so that they can spend quality time together as husbands and wives? If you do, maybe you have lost your focus on God's grace.

3. Acts 9:36-43 – Dorcas was a disciple whose reputation of service was known by all. When she died, the Church mourned her loss. Peter is so moved by this display of affection that he raises her back from the dead. What an impact this woman had on the Church and on the world that she lived in. Would your reputation of serving be like Dorcas'? Do you even want a reputation like that?

4. Acts 6:1-7 – There was a problem in the Church! It involved this area of serving. The wrong people were 'waiting on tables.' The apostles couldn't neglect their God-ordained role so they had the Church choose seven men filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom to wait on tables. As a result, the Church experienced rapid growth. Serving has impact on our goal of evangelizing the world. Is your ministry going well? If not, it may be because you are not serving.

Jesus said that the greatest is the servant. This is hard to accept. It seems greater to be served than to serve. The effects of serving are that people will see that we are followers of God and that we will have our heart trained to be more like Jesus. Serving can be a test of the depth of our convictions. Do you feel that God's grace is motivating you to serve as Jesus served?

Day 23: The Disciple and His Friends!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Proverbs 18:24

Assignment: Make a list of the friendships you see in the Kingdom that you admire the most.

Lesson to Learn: Christians need close relationships to help them grow spiritually and stay faithful.

Everyone wants and needs a best friend. When a Christian gets emotionally drained or frustrated, a close, spiritual friend can help him refocus on the Lord. Without a close, spiritual friend, the Christian may lose his commitment to God and fall away. In this lesson, we will examine the need for friends and how these friends can help us grow spiritually.

1. Proverbs 18:24 – If a person has many companions, it does not mean that he has close friends. What every Christian needs is to have a friend that will 'stick closer to them than a brother'; a friend who will emotionally and spiritually meet their needs. Do you have a friend like that right now? With whom would you develop this kind of relationship?

2. Proverbs 27:17 – A true friendship is not one where you simply hang out together, but it is one where you are spiritually sharpened. Often, we feel we have one close relationship, when in reality we have many people who would meet our needs if we made them known. What person sharpens you spiritually more than any other?

3. 1Samuel 18:1 – David and Jonathan had a deep friendship that could be seen in the fact that one would lay down his life for the other. Jonathan would even face the wrath of his father in order to protect his friend David. Their friendship could be seen in the unity of spirit that they possessed. To whom are you this close?

4. 2Corinthians 2:12-13 – Paul needed his friend Titus. Paul even allowed a door of faith to go unopened because he was alone and in need of his friend. Our goal of evangelizing the world could be seriously jeopardized if we do not develop deep relationships that will help us accomplish those desires. Do your relationships help you to fulfill Jesus' command to evangelize the world?

5. Philippians 2:19-24 – Timothy was one of Paul's best friends. He had trained him in the ministry, and often sent him when he could not be somewhere himself. Timothy had such a good relationship with the apostle Paul that he became very effective for the Lord. Close relationships should have as their goal to make us more fruitful and effective for God. Would you say that this is true of your friendships? When you feel overwhelmed with whom do you want to call and talk?

One of the most important ingredients to having a close friendship is time. As disciples of Jesus, we should set aside time to develop close friendships within the Body of Christ, especially with those within our mentorship meetings. This will be time well spent! Having two or three close spiritual friends may result in us having a stronger, spiritual focus as we look to Jesus for strength, joy and hope. Spiritual friends can help us to fulfill Jesus' goal for our lives.

Day 24: The Disciple and Openness!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: James 5:16

Assignment: Make a list of your most common fears.

Lesson to Learn: Openness is necessary if the Christian is to be forgiven and healed.

Many people are afraid to be open about their feelings or weaknesses. To be vulnerable with people is to run the risk of rejection or ridicule. As a result, people hide behind a fake image of who they are. They want to appear to be someone they are not. Christianity frees us from playing these games. Jesus was very real about His thoughts and feelings. In this lesson, we will examine the spiritual principle of openness and make the application to our own lives.

1. James 5:16 – Christians are encouraged to be open about sin in their life. Confessing sin should be a part of any mentoring relationship. Christians need the continued forgiveness that comes through confessing (see 1 John 1:9). Confession of sin also demonstrates a Christians' humility. If a Christian will not confess his sin, he will never be able to overcome that sin. God's help to overcome our weakness is received when we pray for each other and when we confess our sins to one another. When was the last time you confessed sin to someone close to you who is spiritually mature? When did you last pray about your sin with someone?

2. Proverbs 28:13 – It is never healthy for a man to pretend he is sinless or perfect when he is not. When we conceal our sin, be sure that God will judge us (see Numbers 32:23). However, when we confess our sins and renounce them, it is like a weight that has been lifted from our shoulders. We can then experience God's mercy and have peace of mind.

3. Acts 19:17-20 – When people become disciples of Jesus, it is necessary for them to confess their evil practices and to demonstrate their repentance. This, however, should not be a one-time occurrence. It is a natural part of Christianity. The world will try to make us feel like confessing sin is unnecessary, or in some way “cultish”. Do you feel confessing sin to your mentor is necessary? If not, why not?

4. 2Corinthians 7:5-7 – Paul was very real about his feelings. When he came to Macedonia he faced tremendous trials and challenges. Paul admits his fear in the face of challenges. He even says that he was downcast, sad, and depressed. God comforted him by sending Titus, who was able to reveal the condition of the Corinthian Church. Paul was concerned that the Corinthian Church would not receive his first letter very well. He was even unable to preach until he heard how the Church had repented (see 2Corinthians 2:12-13). How real are you with people about your fears and weaknesses? When you are downcast do you feel you are in sin? It's only sin when we allow our distress to keep us from obeying God.

Every Christian must learn to be real and open about whom they really are. They must let the walls that surround them come down. People are actually drawn closer to people when they see how real they are. Weakness is a part of all our lives. Praise God for the grace we desperately need (see Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5). When we share our feelings and confess our sins, it allows people to relate to us. God will then also bless our humility.

Day 25: The Disciple and Excellence!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: Colossians 3:23-24

Assignment: Make a list of the things that you do well and the reason(s) why you do them well.

Lesson to Learn: Christians should give their best effort in all they are called upon to do!

When Adam sinned, he brought on all humanity the curse of having to work "*by the sweat of your brow.*" (Gen. 3:19). Since many see work as a curse, they feel giving their best effort is unnecessary. This was not Jesus' attitude. He worked as a carpenter for most of His life. His work ethic was an upward call to all. Every Christian should view their work or school as an opportunity to bring glory to God. Work is an opportunity to let your light shine in such a way that when people see your good deeds, they will praise your Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16). In this lesson, we will examine the attitude Christians should have at all times, as they give their best to their Heavenly Father.

1. Colossians 3:23-24 – One of the most important ways to ensure that a Christian gives his best in all he does is to remember whom he is serving. When you think you are working for a paycheck or to please your boss, you will not be motivated to always do well. When you remember, however, that you are working to please God, you will be inspired in a greater way. Your reward will be Heaven and not simply your pay. Why do you go to work? Is it to get a paycheck or is it to bring praise to God's Name?

2. Proverbs 18:9 – To do a job half-heartedly is to be a brother to the one who destroys. Sometimes we may think taking a shortcut will do no real harm, but it does! You must always, to the best of your ability, give your employer or teacher a 100% effort. No one would find fault with a person who tried his or her best. Do you feel your life is a testimony to the high standards that a Christian should have?

3. Matthew 25:26-30 – One of the greatest deterrents to a Christian giving their best is laziness. God will judge the world on the basis of how each person uses the talents that are given to him. Laziness is often the excuse used to defend a half-hearted effort. God did not accept any excuses. He sent the servant with one talent to the darkness, where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you struggle with the sin of laziness? What are you going to do to overcome it? Have you confessed this to someone lately?

4. Philippians 2:19-23 – Timothy was a unique disciple. Paul had trained him from a young age. Timothy had learned well, to the point where he had become a valuable resource to Paul. In Philippians, Paul says that he had no one else who was like Timothy; due in part to the very high standard Timothy lived by. He always gave a 100% effort. Is there a high standard of expectation in your mentoring relationships?

We must always remember whom we are serving. If God were to stand before you today and ask you to do something for Him, how would you respond? We would want to please Him no matter what the cost or effort involved. That's the way it should be. Sometimes we forget it is God telling us what to do when we are at work or at school. We should, therefore, give Him our best always!

Day 26: The Disciple, Joyful and Grateful!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Assignment: What is the most challenging trial you face in your life?

Lesson to Learn: A Christian can be a light to the world because of the joy and gratitude he has.

To be joyful in all circumstances is a challenge. We are emotional beings and therefore it sometimes seems impossible to control our joy level. Often, our joy seems determined by the circumstances in our life. If we view those circumstances as positive, then we feel we can be happy. If we view them as negative or difficult, then we could be depressed or sad. True joy and gratitude should not be dependent on the conditions in our life. To be a light to our world, the disciple must learn the secret of being content in any and every situation. The result of that peace will be that we will be joyful and grateful. To maintain this attitude is to be in sharp contrast to the world that we live in. Then God will be glorified by our lives! In this lesson, we will examine the spiritual qualities of joy and gratitude, and then make application to our own lives.

1. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 -- Be joyful always! What a challenging command to obey. Joy is an emotion and emotions are very hard to control. Did God make a mistake in giving us this command? Is this beyond the realm of possibility? God would never command us to do something that was impossible for us to obey. Jesus commands us to not let our hearts be troubled, (John 14:1). It was obvious to Him that this was possible. It involves our understanding of what should make us happy and grateful. To be joyful always does not mean always laughing, but to be filled with an inner peace. It means to be grateful in spite of circumstances that surround you. To be joyful always means to be filled with faith and confidence that God is working in your life in all circumstances, (Romans 8:28). Are you joyful always? Are you filled with gratitude in spite of difficult trials in your life? Is your conviction the same as Habakkuk's conviction in Habakkuk 3:17-18?

2. Luke 10:20 -- Jesus commanded His disciples to rejoice because their names were written in heaven. When you want joy to come from your job or social life, you will, at some point, be disappointed. Joy must radiate from your relationship with God. Then, that joy and gratitude will touch all other areas of your life. Are you still grateful for your salvation? When did you last thank God for your home in Heaven?

3. Philippians 4:4 -- Rejoicing is much easier when it is in the Lord. That means our joy is found in God and in Godly things. Often, our sadness comes from things that are not godly or are not God's plan for us. This is what James tells us in James 4:1-3. Do you rejoice in the Lord? Do you love Godly things more than worldly things?

4. Acts 5:41-42 -- The disciples are rejoicing after they are beaten. How is that possible? They were rejoicing in the Lord and their focus was on Heaven. They were excited to be able to share in the sufferings of Christ. They saw their lives as an opportunity to bring glory to God. Do you have this depth of commitment to God? Do you see very discouraging situations that arise in your life as an opportunity to glorify God?

Joy and gratitude are possible always. They are emotions that can be controlled. Jesus was a joyful, grateful man and so must we be. If we focus on Heaven, we can face any trial. Stephen was able to die as he preached the gospel by keeping his eyes fixed on heaven (cf. Acts 7:54-60). With this joy and gratitude in your heart, you will become a light that brings glory to your Father!

Day 27: The Disciple and Money!

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: 1Timothy 6:6-10

Assignment: Make a list of the ways you use money to glorify God.

Lesson to Learn: The love of money can destroy our love and commitment to God.

Have you ever found yourself feeling like you are not as committed to God as you once were? You hear a lesson on sacrifice and you feel you need to repent and be more giving to people. There are times when a disciple will lose his zeal for God and he will not know why. The love of money and the desire for an easier life can be two reasons that we find our commitment to God has changed. The problem with our love for money is that it usually enters our life in small increments. The changes can be so subtle we do not always notice them. It takes a reawakening for us to see the changes we have made. In this lesson, we will examine the danger of money and what our attitude should be towards it.

1. 1Timothy 6:6-10 -- Being content with what we have is one of the greatest safeguards we have to our spiritual purity. Paul warns us that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. People wander from the faith because of it. The phrase "*wandered from the faith*" denotes a slow progression by which a person's commitment to God fades away. The love for money happens slowly and methodically. If a disciple allows himself to "fall in love" with money, the zeal and commitment he once had for Jesus will be replaced by an ever-increasing desire for pleasure and comfort. The love for money chokes out the Word of God (see Luke 8:14). Do you feel your zeal for God is less now than when you were first baptized? If so, what do you think caused this? Remove from your life whatever is causing you to stumble. See Hebrews 12:1-2.

2. 1Timothy 6:17-19 – Wealth may appear to be certain and solid. The reality is, however, that money is fleeting and uncertain. To put your hope in money is to put your hope in that which will let you down. Put your hope in God! He will never desert you or abandon you in your time of need. Money will not give you peace or contentment. It will only bring you responsibility and heartache. Do you trust money more than God? What would you feel more secure with: a million dollars or God?

3. Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11; 6:1-7 – The first real problem the Church faced was not persecution, but how to handle money. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to use their money to appear as committed as other Christians. Their love for recognition and glory caused them to lie to God. If they had no property they may have never fallen into this sin. They would have had no means to satisfy their desire to "look good" before the apostles. In chapter six, the Church faces a problem of the feeding of the widows. Again, money, and the use of it, is at the root of this problem. If the Church had no money, it would not have faced this problem. Had the apostles made the wrong decision, the Church could have split over this issue. Money can be very dangerous if it is not used properly. We must always think spiritually when we consider how to use our money. Do you seek spiritual input when you are making decisions that will involve the spending of money?

4. Acts 2:44-45 – The disciples of the first century were very generous in their giving to meet the needs of the newly established Church. They learned to have a spiritual attitude toward the blessings God had given them. Do you see yourself having this same attitude?

True disciples must love God, and not money! This challenge must be faced in every generation, by every disciple. Our zeal for God and His mission is at stake. The love of money will change us from spiritual radicals to complacent suburbanites. Let us never exchange the glory of God for a temporary solution to a temporary problem!

Day 28: The Disciple as a Mentor – Part 1 – The Foundation is Laid

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: 2Timothy 3:16-17

Assignment: Make a list of the things that you see about yourself that show that you are great student to the person mentoring you.

Lesson to Learn: The necessary “practicals” every Christian should know in order to train others.

The Great Commission that Jesus left for all men states that they should make disciples who, in turn, would make other disciples. This is God's simple plan to evangelize the world. As each new disciple grows in his faith, he will be able to help someone else to grow in his faith. In this way, the burden of maturing a fast-growing Church does not fall upon just a few men, but upon all. In the next three lessons, we will examine a few “practicals” that will help you to train younger Christians to grow in their faith. This lesson will examine the foundation that is necessary to have a great mentoring relationship.

1. 2Timothy 3:16-17 – The basis for a mentoring relationship must be the Word of God. The Bible was given to us by God as a means of maturing every Christian in their faith. Do you use the Bible in your mentoring meetings? When you counsel a person, do you use the Bible as the basis of your advice?

2. 2Corinthians 11:16-29 – One of the most inspirational ways to impact a person is to show them a great example. Paul was one of the greatest trainers of spiritual truths that ever lived. His ability to raise up men to preach and teach helped Christians in the first century to evangelize their generation. One of Paul's greatest assets in impacting men was his example. We must lead the way for our people. We must show them the way to pray, study their Bibles, share their faith, raise their children, love their spouse, etc. Is the example you leave for those whom you mentor inspirational?

3. 1Corinthians 1:1-3 – Paul had an incredible vision for the Corinthian Church, even though they were weak and sinful. He addressed them, in Greek, as “*hagios*” which translates to the word “*saints*” or “*holy ones*”. He inspired them with his love and vision. Do you believe in your disciples? Do you see them as doing great things for the Lord? Do you share with them what you can see them doing for God?

4. Acts 20:25-27 – Paul, in training the disciples, made sure he declared the whole will of God to them. He didn't just train them in one aspect of Christianity but he focused on all areas. He wanted to raise up mature, well-rounded disciples. Make a list of the things you have been working on with those whom you mentor in helping them to grow and mature in the Lord.

5. 1Corinthians 4:17 – Timothy was a great disciple. Because of this, it would be easy for Timothy to train others. There is an important spiritual principle at work here. You must be a great disciple in order to raise up other disciples. Instinctively, those whom you mentor will imitate your heart. If you are not a great disciple they will imitate that and then not be great disciples either. Are you frustrated with the people you are mentoring? Maybe the problem is that you need to become a better disciple yourself. Then those whom you mentor will follow your lead.

The foundation for an effective mentoring relationship is important in order to help those whom you mentor to grow the way God wants them to. Use your Bible in all your mentoring meetings. Show those whom you are mentoring a great and inspirational example that they can follow. Always have a vision for them and yourself. Teach them the whole will of God and always be a great disciple yourself. With these basics, you can help anyone to grow spiritually.

Day 29: The Disciple as a Mentor -- Part 2 -- Developing a Relationship

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12

Assignment: Ask your mentor if they think you are good at developing close relationships.

Lesson to Learn: The mentor must learn to build a deep relationship with those he mentors if he is to have an impact in their lives.

The mandate Jesus has given every disciple is to go to all nations and make disciples. This is an incredible challenge which, to our knowledge, was done only once before. The disciples in the first century were able to evangelize their world (see Colossians 1:6, 23). They accomplished this without the use of telephones, cars, planes, trains, fax machines, etc. However, what they did have were incredible relationships. The power of the Church is not our ministry techniques, but the deep relationships that exist between disciples. Usually, when people become disciples they do not know how to build deep relationships. It is very important that all disciples learn how to build relationships that will last forever. When persecution is directed toward us, it is those close relationships that will help us overcome the anger of the world. In this lesson, we will examine the biblical directive on how to have close mentorship relationships.

1. 1Thessalonians 1:2-3 – One of the most important things you must do to build a close relationship with anyone is to pray for them. Paul prayed continually for the disciples. When you pray for someone, you spend time thinking about them and their needs. Through prayer, you will develop a more compassionate heart and you learn to empathize with them. Do you pray continually for those whom you mentor?
2. 1Thessalonians 2:6-7 – One way to draw those whom you mentor into your life is to learn to be gentle with them. To start a relationship with an iron fist is to build a wall between you and those whom you disciple. Paul uses the analogy of a mother caring for her little children. When a newborn comes home, that mother is very gentle and caring for that child. Only later, as the child grows, do you begin to train and discipline them.
3. 1Thessalonians 2:8-9 – In order to have a close relationship with those whom you mentor, you must love them. You must want what is best for their lives. You must enjoy them and appreciate their friendship and company. Paul loved the Church in Thessalonica, and they knew it. Do those whom you mentor know that you love them and that you want what is best for them?
4. 1Thessalonians 2:8-9 – Paul shared his life with the disciples. He was open with them about his feelings and struggles. They knew about his past, his strengths, his weaknesses and his fears. Paul spent time with them. Spending time with people is the only way to get to know them. Do you share your life with those whom you mentor? Do you have a regular weekly time that you get with each person you mentor? Is this time the same from week to week or is it a floating time? Often, if we do not plan it into our schedule, it will not happen.
5. 1Thessalonians 2:10-12 – Paul was always encouraging, comforting and urging the disciples. There has to be a balance in every relationship. It cannot be just training, or rebuking, or just hanging out together, or just encouraging, or just comforting. Every relationship needs to have a combination of all these ingredients. There must be a proper balance. That is why you should be constantly re-evaluating your mentoring relationships to see if you are maintaining that balance.

If we are to evangelize all nations, we must build close personal relationships that will last a lifetime. Jesus poured Himself into His disciples. His friendship with them accomplished the goal He gave them. Be quick to incorporate these principles in your relationships and then God will bless you with the same results.

Day 30: The Disciple as a Mentor – Part 3 – The Training Begins

An Intimate Walk with Jesus - A 30 Day Quiet Time Series

In this lesson, we will depart from the usual format used and give you a checklist of areas to look at in your mentoring of other people. It is always good to look and see whether we are covering all areas of mentoring in order to help people grow. Here are specific things we should be doing with people we mentor:

A. Pray

Make sure, first of all, that you do it.

Teach them how to pray (for example - Matthew 6:9-15).

Discuss and teach them concerning any misconceptions they have about prayer.

B. Follow-up

Make sure you follow up in any areas you discussed from the last time you were together, either during your scheduled times together or any impromptu times throughout the week.

C. Their Marriage

If married, make sure this is an area you talk about often, as this relationship, more than any other human relationship, will affect them:

1. The husband's role (Ephesians 5:25-33 ; 1Peter 3:7).
2. The wife's role (Ephesians 5:22 / 1Peter 3:1-6).
3. Bring up any areas you see they need help in as you have spent time together.
4. Are they praying together?

D. Their Children

If the individual has children, make sure this is discussed often, as children can have the most profound impact on their parents:

1. Any area of concern about their children.
2. The whole area of discipline.
3. Any struggles/questions with the husband's/wife's role in raising the children.
4. Are they having regular family devotionals?

E. Dating Relationships

Some areas to discuss:

1. Purity – Ephesians 5:3-4
2. Not running ahead of where the relationship realistically should be.

F. Addressing Life-Dominating Sins

Address areas in the lives of those whom you mentor where there is recurring sin:

1. Don't be naïve. Satan will come back to tempt them again (Luke 4:13).
2. Keep stressing the putting-off of the old self and the putting-on of the new self (Ephesians 4:20-5:3ff).

G. Bible Study

Some areas to discuss:

1. Discuss how their quiet times are going (for example: any problems, questions, what they are learning, etc.).
2. Share what you have learned from your own quiet times.
3. Discuss the Sunday sermon, Wednesday class, etc.

H. Evangelism

Some areas to discuss:

1. Make sure you know how they are doing in this area.
2. Any problems or discouragements.
3. Specific people they are studying with.
4. Talk about boldness and how to overcome timidity.

I. Perfecting Other Christians

In order for the mentoring process to continue, the person you are mentoring needs to be faithful in their mentoring of others. Some areas to cover:

1. Are there any problems they do not know how to handle?

J. Our Walk With God

Some areas to discuss:

1. Are they still living by faith? (Hebrews 11:6; 12:38).
2. Are they pursuing holiness in their lives? (Proverbs 8:13; Hebrews 12:14).
3. Is there peace in their life? (Romans 5:1).
4. Is there a spirit of thankfulness? (Colossians 3:15; 4:2).
5. Are they still motivated by grace? (1Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:8-10).
6. Are they growing in their boldness? (2Timothy 1:7).
7. Are there any hints of a complaining spirit? (Philippians 2:14-15).
8. Make sure those whom you are mentoring are solution-oriented in their mentoring of others.