



How Do I Establish an Effective Mentoring Network

SL-302 Lesson I Text

Jesus established a mentoring network that consisted of twelve disciples. He had extensive Jewish training like all boys did from their families. They memorized the first five books of the Old Testament. Of course He was a supernatural student with an incredible hearing and seeing ability. Therefore, He became the ultimate Master Mentor.

His goal was to mentor twelve disciples in the ways of God. Consequently, they could duplicate the works of His Spirit by His love. His disciples became very apostolic by spreading the Good News throughout the world. Teaching, discipleship, healing, miracles, deliverance, and close intimate relationships became the standard operating system of the Kingdom.

It is very difficult in today's culture to quit our jobs to follow a mentor. First of all there must be some form of finances to take care of the mentees and their families. Secondly, one would probably be accused of following a cult leader who just wants to take advantage of us.

As a result, our mentoring takes on a different appearance today. Relationships must occur, but how they emerge will be unique:

- Larger gatherings for informational training.
 - Seminars
 - Teaching at church
 - Webinars
 - Recorded video and audio training

- Small group meetings at various times
 - Home
 - Church
 - Meeting rooms
 - Some restaurants
 - Rotating locations

- One on one communication.
 - Face to face
 - Church
 - Coffee shops
 - Skype, face time
 - Phones
 - Email
 - Texting, audio texts
 - Letters
 - Spontaneous

Discipleship Not Required – Skip Moen

“Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS” Matthew 11:29

Learn – This Greek verb *manthano* is not the same as the word used in the Great Commission passage. The verb in Matthew 29:18 is *matheteuo*. The Great Commission is about discipling others. That means mentoring them in a way that attaches them to the rabbi. That means creating an apprentice relationship. But that is not what Jesus says here. Right here Jesus doesn't ask for discipleship. He asks for observation that results in moral responsibility and action. Do you see the difference?

To make someone my disciple is to choose someone to follow me. The teacher is the active agent, not the pupil. That's why the Great Commission is not focused on the results but rather, on the method. But in this verse, Jesus changes the focus. Here the emphasis is on the student, not the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to carefully observe and copy the teacher. No intimate apprenticeship is required. No "teacher choice" is necessary. All that matters is that the student understand fully the obligation, the responsibility and the action. *Manthano* is a verb that says, "Just do exactly what I do."

Why does Jesus use a verb that doesn't seem to require discipleship? The answer is buried in the structure of the universe. It's profound – and simple (most profound things really are simple). If I do exactly what Jesus does, I will soon discover that my actions reshape my attitudes and emotions – and I will become His follower because I will discover the refreshment I long to have. I will experience something God built into creation – rest! When I do what Jesus does, I discover my real purpose. I am satisfied at last. I am in-tune with the symphony of creation, in harmony with God's design within me. My life becomes a stanza in the poetry of the universe. I can never go back. I make myself a disciple.

It's such a subtle approach. Jesus is so brilliant. Don't worry about getting all the facts right or having deep insights. Don't fret over theological puzzles or moral dilemmas. Don't be discouraged that you won't be chosen as an apprentice. Just copy Him. Just examine ever so carefully how He acts, and then do it too. And things will change. The more you do what Jesus does, the more you will enter into the

eternal flow of the Father's purposes. And things will change. Life will be much less burdensome – much more joyful. You will find the second wind.

Discipling might be up to the teacher, but learning (examining carefully in order to copy) is up to the student. Either way produces the same result, pretty clever.

Scriptures

- **Matthew 20:25-28** – *"But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as ransom for many.'"*
- **Matthew 16:24-26** – *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"*
- **1 Corinthians 11:1** – *"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."*
- **Philippians 4:9** – *"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you."*
- **1 Thessalonians 3:6** – *"But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you."*
- **1 Peter 5:3-5** – *"nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Your younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*
- **Acts 20:18** – *"And when they had come to him, he said to them, 'You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time.'"*
- **Acts 20:35** – *"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*
- **2 Thessalonians 3:7** – *"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you."*

- **Hebrews 3:13** – *"But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."*

Other Scriptures that illustrate mentoring

- **Exodus 18** – Moses was mentored by his father-in-law Jethro; first as a son-in-law and then as a leader.
- **Luke 9** – Jesus mentored His disciples.
- **Acts 9-15** – Both Barnabas and Paul excelled in mentoring.
- **2 Kings 2:1-16** – Elisha was mentored by Elijah.
- **Galatians 2:11-13** – Peter mentored Barnabas.
- **Deuteronomy 31:7-8** – Moses mentored Joshua.
- **Ruth 1:7-18, 2:17-3-16** – Naomi mentored Ruth.
- **Acts 12:25-13:5** – Barnabas mentored Paul and Mark.
- **2 Timothy 2:2** – Paul mentored Timothy, Titus, and several others.