

When I was the concert director - I can remember pastor greg giving me very clear instructions on what he wanted done for a specific outreach / I had dropped the ball and failed to plan correctly - I remember he told me "Steven today its planning an outreach but someday it will be peoples lives."

Common phrase you've probably heard - part of our church culture is discipleship / one of the three pillars of our church and fellowship "make disciples" Discipleship requires two primary factors - Men that can be taught and men that can teach others. Whats needed is faithful men.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

I. DISCIPLESHIP REALITIES

A. Foundation a Jesus Ministry was Discipleship and faithfulness

Matthew 28:19—19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

1. Discipleship is the only thing that will outlast a life
 - a) What Jesus said and did was only going to be spread to world through His disciples
 - (1) By extension the disciples they made - You being here this morning is the result of another mans willingness to be discipled
2. A mans life is limited
 - a) Not everyone can observe a mans life but discipleship can
 - b) In Jesus ministry - he saw and observed this on a personal level - correction/ instruction/ encouragement

Luke 9:54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

Matthew 16:23—23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

3. Jesus was faithful to his ministry even to death
 - a) Jesus is our ultimate example of what a faithful man was like
- B. Disciples can focus on the Wrong things: We can give our attention to things that don't really matter
 1. Competition - climbing the ladder
 - a) Who's Pastor talking too/ who's opening in prayer / who's preaching in one80
 - b) Every other man is further ahead than me - death by comparison
 2. Focus on other people
 - a) What they are doing, what are they not doing -

John 21:20—22—20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" **21** Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" **22** Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

3. Focus on our own limitations
 - a) We put too much emphasis on where we are lacking and assume God could never use my life
- C. Unfaithful men: this is what focusing on the wrong things can lead too
 1. What your pastor has cannot be passed on to you
 2. People that are waiting for you to obey God and could possibly never hear hear the Gospel
 3. Disciples that depend of you to impart your pastors spirit to them - never experience that

II. THE NEED FOR FAITHFUL MEN

A. Discipleship demands faithfulness

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men

1. You are reaping the benefits of another mans faithfulness
 - a) We have a fellowship and church today because A faithful man entrusted things to other faithful men
 - b) **Vision** - still doing the same thing after 55 years c) **Doctrine** - haven't diverted from the established convictions we've been given
2. Discipleship only works in the context of faithfulness

John 10:12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock.

- a) Men being in their place ready to help/ labor / invest in the kingdom of God
- b) Men that are dependable - can be counted on
- 3. Without faithfulness the commission of Jesus Christ ends
- a) If Timothy was unwilling to be faithful in passing on what Paul's taught - then it all stopped with Paul

Billy Graham "If I had to do it over again, I would have spent more time in the training of a small group of men, focusing on just a few, like Jesus did. If I could do it all over again, I would invest more time in discipling just 12 men."

B. The Process of faithfulness

- 1. Be willing to listen to other men - BE TEACHABLE
 - a) Disciple is a learner - someone who can take the direction of another and apply it
 - b) Question - Can Pastor speak into your life - can he correct you without you getting funky
- 2. Develop convictions about your own character
 - a) Who are you when no one is looking - are you faithful to prayer - faithful to God's word
 - (1) If you go out and pioneer someday - pastor won't be calling you every morning checking up on you
 - (2) *Pioneering in Denver - many winter mornings -10-15 degrees outside - I had to get my butt out of bed and go to prayer - read my bible - outreach - pastor never called and asked if I was still a christian.*
 - b) *This is something you have to do - has to be something that lives in you now*
 - (1) *Pastor Jesse has said - Conviction is a settled belief / not something that fades over time*
- 3. Walk with humility
 - a) Humility recognizes that what you have in ministry - your position - everything you have seen and experienced is the result of someone else's investment into your life

2 Timothy 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

III. THE BLESSING OF FAITHFULNESS

- A. Your life becomes larger than yourself
 - 1. What cause the impact of a man to outlive him - discipleship
 - a) Your pastor is passing down his spirit/ experience to you so that you can pass that down to other men
 - b) In our fellowship this morning - Pastor Mitchell/ Pastor Greg will be preaching all over the world -
 - 2. Faithful men can be trusted with more
 - a) Paul is being honest about nature of life - come a point where it will be up to Timothy to carry on what Paul has taught him
 - b) Men here - you will be pastors someday - you will have men under you/ disciples that you will have to impart and pass on what's been given to you

Matthew 25:21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

- B. Faithful men please God
 - 1. We please God by loving what He loves
 - a) A faithful disciple is a man who understands and values what's been given to him
- C. Faithful men enter into destiny
 - 1. Our text - Timothy advances in ministry to a point of pastoral ministry
 - a) Often the desire of many men that feel called - they want to advance- be promoted- be given opportunities
 - b) Faithfulness is a decision every man must make in order to be used by God
 - 2. The Point of faithfulness is that your life becomes a legacy - lives beyond you
 - a) Paul says "commit what you have heard to faithful men ... so that they will teach others also..."
 - b) The purpose of Paul's life was to make the Gospel known and disciple men to desire the same thing

PM - Discipleship is a sincere desire to see another man enter God's will