INTRODUCTION

The final words of Christ before he ascended to heaven;

Matthew 28:18
Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to
obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

I. Defining Terms

a. **Discipleship** = intentional influence. Discipleship is not a program, but a life of sincerely endeavoring to follow Jesus, then leveraging your time, talent and influence to help others do the same.

b. **Apprenticing** = selecting, modeling and coaching for the purpose of replacing yourself.

Corinthians 11:1
“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ”

II. Jesus approach:

a. He began with succession in mind.

b. He handpicked those to whom he would entrust his mission. He didn’t ask for volunteers

c. He rarely did ministry alone

d. He gave his disciples opportunities to do ministry alone then they would debrief.

Luke 9:10
When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida,

III. Myth Busters

Ephesians 4:11-13
So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for the work of the ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

a. The myth of mentoring: “my pastor’s job is to minister to me and meet my spiritual needs”

b. The myth of ministry: “I’ve got too many weakness and faults, I’m not ready to be used by God”

c. The myth of maturity: “I shouldn’t minister until I reach an approved level of maturity”

IV. Remove the excuses

“but I’m not an expert, I don’t know all the verses or have all the answers!”
You may never feel like you are adequately prepared to disciple someone else.
You will never feel like you are adequately prepared to apprentice another leader.
You are not responsible for: Knowing everything there is to know about it all.
Knowing more than everyone else or more than your mentors.
Recognize your responsibility for passing along what you do know to somebody else.
Your responsibility is to empty your cup!

V. Application

a. Prayerfully consider who God is giving you influence with and who it is you need to disciple
b. Intentionally invest your time and resources in the process
c. Keep it simple, remember your “MED’s”
   1. Model = here’s what I do
   2. Explain = here’s why I do it
   3. Demonstrate = here’s how I do it

2 Timothy 2:1-2
You then, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have learned from me, in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT = Reproduce yourself!

“Success is not measured by what you accomplish. Success is measured by whether or not you leave what you’ve accomplished in capable hands”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What would you like your final words to be?
2. How would you define discipleship?
3. Can you name at least one person you are disciplining, while at work, at home, while having fun?
4. Why is it hard for us to want to see others succeed, even beyond our own accomplishments?
5. What myths are stopping you from making disciples?
6. What God given gift do you have that can be used to make disciples?
7. What excuses are you using to justify neglecting the great commission and making disciples?
8. Who has God given you to influence and have you begun to reproduce yourself, in them?
9. What can you do this week to begin a life of making disciples and how can this group hold you accountable to it?