

FOLLOWING JESUS' PATTERN

When it comes to discipleship/mentoring of others, we can learn from Jesus. As He trained the 12 He mentored we can see the areas He developed within them in order for them to in turn be effective in fulfilling the Great Commission. There was nothing special or extra-ordinary about these men. They were simply willing to follow Jesus and learn from Him. The only requirement for us to be discipled is to be willing to forsake all to follow, learn, and allow the Master to form us as His vessels. Were they perfect? No! Did they make mistakes? Yes! Did Jesus disqualify them because of it? No! Those who left did so because they made that choice themselves.

Was there anything special about these common ordinary men after Jesus ascended? Absolutely! After spending up to three years with Jesus, they were changed. The finishing work after His command to go and make disciples was to go and tarry in Jerusalem until they had received the power from on high (Acts 1:4-8).... the Father's promise.



When we disciple others, we may have questions as to what areas do we cover in this discipleship process? With each individual or group it can vary depending on where that person is in their spiritual walk and what the Holy Spirit points to as a need for strengthening. Going back to Jesus as our pattern, the following are areas that Christ exposed His group of 12 to.

1. They lived life in general with Jesus.
2. They were taught kingdom principles.
3. They learned about humility.
4. They were constantly learning what Jesus meant by taking up your cross/denying oneself.
5. They had to deal with their own pride.
6. They had "hands-on" ministry training watching and learning from Jesus as He ministered to people, and even dealing with children.
7. They had to learn how to deal with power and authority issues.
8. They learned how to deal with conflict.
9. They learned what it meant to honor others.
10. They learned how to pray.
11. They learned how to speak the truth in love.
12. They learned how to deal with proud religious leaders.
13. They learned how to deal with the demonic realm.
14. They experienced the power of the Holy Spirit.
15. They even learned how to grieve over the loss of co-workers.

They learned all this so that they would be equipped to go as Jesus commanded and be effective witnesses and in their going disciple others. That is the life He wants us to choose as well. His pattern is one we can draw on and follow as we disciple others.