

Step UP Sermon Series
Part Four: “Marks of a Mentor”
Pastor Dale Campfield - September 26th, 2010

Intro:

Matt 28:19 *“Go and make disciples of all nations...”*

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow... which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Series Premise: It’s time to Step Up – to fulfill the CALL of GOD upon our lives.

Most of us have known Jesus Christ for years; some less, but most of us have known Him and had a relationship with Him for years. Through the years, though our hearts have been right and motives genuine, we seem to have “fallen asleep” as a church. The fact is, the time is short and the return of Christ is quickly coming upon us. It’s time to step it up as a church and make sure we’re doing everything we can to reach souls for the Kingdom of God, walking in the fullness of the Calling that is upon each of our lives. That’s what this sermon series is all about. Stepping Up and making it happen. Stop talking about it, stop learning it, stop dreaming about it, stop thinking everyone else is going to get it done and step up and do it!

What is the call of God upon our lives? Two Things...

The Great Commandment: To love God and others.

The Great Commission: To go into all the world making disciples.

That’s it. That’s the call of God that is on each of our lives.

KEY VERSES: 1 Cor. 11:1 *“Follow me as I follow Christ.”*

John 12:32 *“If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself.”*

Stepping Up Action Cards: Each congregational member will receive a “Stepping Up Action Card” for each day of the series. The Action Card will challenge and encourage them to step up in a very practical way. Each card will also have a scripture on it for encouragement.

Today, we’re going to talk about the “Marks of a Mentor”

- I’ve had many people in the past who have disciple/mentored me. Pastor Bob Smith, Pastor Bill King mentored me as a child. From nine years of age on, they began to plant their lives into me.
- We must be planting our lives into other people!

Three Interchangeable Words

Christian = Disciple = Mentor

So what is a mentor?

“A mentorship is a relationship in which an individual teaches and trains, planting their life in someone else’s in order to help them discover God’s will and destiny for their life, so that they may reach their full potential, and grow in maturity in Christ Jesus.”

Cazi Campfield October 12th, 2003

Always remember, there is a difference between a mentor and tormentor.

I want to explain the word "disciple". A disciple is a true follower of Jesus Christ. In other words, what we would call a "Christian." If you are a Christian, you are a disciple; if you are not a disciple as Jesus defines it then you are not a Christian. These two terms (Disciple and Christian) mean the same thing in the same way that I mean that the same thing when I speak of my "spouse" or my "wife."

In fact the term "disciples" occurs 269 times in the New Testament, while the term "Christian" only occurs three times. In the Book of Acts we're told that "The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26)." This makes clear that the terms are interchangeable. I wanted this to be clear because I believe it greatly clarifies the seriousness of what Jesus was saying. For instance, Jesus words in verse 27, "Anyone

We will take a look at how Jesus defined discipleship in a few moments when I go over this text verse by verse, but before I do I want to explain the word "disciple" which is repeated several times in these few verses. A disciple is a true follower of Jesus Christ. In other words, what we would call a "Christian." If you are a Christian, you are a disciple; if you are not a disciple as Jesus defines it then you are not a Christian. These two terms (Disciple and Christian) mean the same thing in the same way that I mean that the same thing when I speak of my "spouse" or my "wife."

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With that brief explanation let's now look at this passage verse by verse.

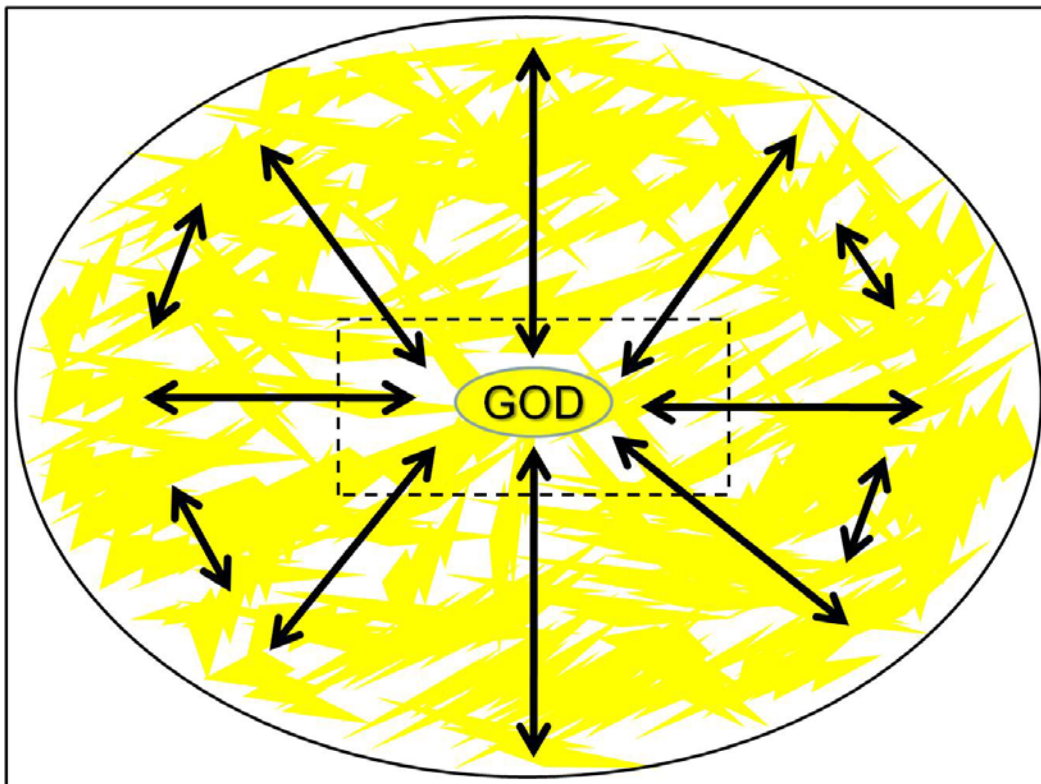
Read Verses 25-27

The first thing I want you to notice is to whom Jesus is speaking these words about being his

disciple. Luke notes specifically that "large crowds" were following Jesus and that Jesus specifically "turned to them" and elaborated on being a disciple. Jesus was not talking to those who were antagonistic towards him or to those who were uninterested in his life and message. No, these were people who were "traveling with the Jesus." There are positive in their attitude toward Jesus. They were interested in what he had to say. They apparently mistook this positive attitude and interest in Jesus for true discipleship, as many people do today. They considered themselves to be followers of Jesus but in reality they were only casual followers and not committed followers.

They were willing and even anxious to follow Jesus providing the cost was not too high or the demands too great. They were like many people today who do "Christian things" like go to church, pray, sing Christian songs, etc. but are not really committed to Jesus. In a sense they were "along for the ride" but were unwilling to give up everything in their lives that conflicted with following Jesus in a committed way. They were like many today who look to Jesus to solve their money problems, relationship problems, health problems, etc. but who quickly grow disillusioned and unwilling to obey Jesus completely when following Jesus doesn't solve these problems or following Jesus requires real sacrifices in their lives. These "large crowds" were casual followers and not committed followers, which are you?

At Eastgate Community Church, this is our path to discipleship...



It is an outward path by the church to the world, not an inward path to the church by the world. So, on the path in which you walk, you must be on the lookout for potential disciples of Christ. On this path, I recommend you to the following...

- IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE ON YOUR PATH

I'm convinced there are no relationships in your life that are accidental. Identify those on your path as potential people that God has given you as a potential disciple of Christ.

- **INVEST IN THE PEOPLE ON YOUR PATH**

Invest your time, talent and treasure into these people. It's going to take time especially, and it may take the investment of other things too; but it's worth it.

- **INVITE THE PEOPLE ON YOUR PATH**

Invite them to something that involves a God connection. It might be church, it might be a concert, it might be a movie, it might be a coke date, it might be to dinner or over to your house. Just invite them to some place where God is.

- **INTRODUCE THE PEOPLE ON YOUR PATH**

Introduce the people to Christ first of all by your actions. You play the music until they ask for the words. That's the words of Jamal Hashweh, our missionary in Jordan. Sometime along the path walk, you've got to let them know about Jesus Christ. We cannot be embarrassed of our Lord, but we must introduce people to Him.

- **INSTRUCT THE PEOPLE ON YOUR PATH**

This is when the actual discipling process takes place. The mentor relationship begins to kick in.

So.... how do you do that? What are the Marks of a Mentor...

Mentoring – A way to Discipleship...

When we look at the word of God, we see in numerous times where a man of God linked with another to learn from them and be a partner in what they are doing. Examples are: Elijah & Elisha, David & Jonathan. Naomi & Ruth and ultimately learning from the life of Jesus. He called them one by one and discipled (mentored) them and they go out and do the same. Mentoring is really another term for Discipleship. Mentoring opens up to accountability (which some of us cringe to that very word). Mentoring – a way for today's ministry. And let's face it, we could do a little bit of help from our friends...

Examples of Biblical Mentors

Elijah mentored Elisha

Paul mentored Timothy

Jesus mentored the 12 Disciples

Mordecai the Jew mentored his cousin Esther.

Moses mentored Joshua

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

¹⁴ I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵ Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁸ Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. ²¹ What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

“Paul is a spiritual father to the Corinthians.”

- There are two ways to become a spiritual father. One is to be part of birthing someone to new life. The second is to raise a spiritual child into a spiritual adult (an adoption type of situation).

- In both cases, we're talking, as it refers to earlier in v. 15, about a special relationship, which is not something that's true of every teacher that we sit under. We need to ask ourselves whether we have “birthed” anyone and been a spiritual father or mother to them. Also, have we seen someone hungry to grow and mature spiritually and come alongside them and invested ourselves in them?

- Many Christians have been believers for 20, 30, 50 years and have never been a spiritual father or mother in either sense. We are called to move beyond being a child and to being a spiritual leader and mentor.

- What does that look like? Let's talk about it using the more common term “mentor.”

Six Marks Of A Spiritual Mentor:

1. A mentor speaks the hard truth.

- v. 14 - “warns” So many people walk around making bad spiritual decisions and, amazingly, the other Christians around them all stand back and watch as mistakes are repeated again and again. We need someone who loves us enough to come to us with the hard truth - “That relationship is destructive,” “Your anger is inappropriate,” “You seem to be pulling back from your church family.”

- In doing this, I am presuming a mentoring relationship where trust and love have been built up, rather than just deciding to walk up to someone we barely know and unload on them.

- Note, too, that Paul specifically says that his goal was not to shame them. Some people who do talk about what someone is doing wrong go about it in the wrong way. They may talk about the person in order to justify their own sins. They may talk the hard truth to others, but not to that person. Our desire cannot be to add shame to their name, but rather to see their behavior changed and their relationship with God redeemed.

2. A mentor gives their heart away.

- v. 14 - “beloved”

- Paul, even when writing hard words, is quick to share his love for the Corinthians. If we are going to be spiritual mentors, we have to be willing to be the first to share our hearts with words of love, encouragement, and compassion.
- Sadly, there are relatively few people who are willing to actually speak those words of bold love. We must be brave enough to do that.

3. A mentor forges the trail.

- v. 16.
- Paul's words leave many uncomfortable, but the truth is a simple one: we must be able to say to those we mentor, "Don't just do as I say; do as I do."
- "I'm not just going to talk about prayer, I'm going to show you what a man of prayer looks like." "I'm not just going to talk about forgiveness, I'm going to show you what forgiving an enemy looks like." "I'm not just going to talk about Jesus, I'm going to show you what He looks like."
- We cannot expect anyone we mentor to go to levels of maturity that we have not experienced ourselves. This is a good question for us to ask ourselves: if my spiritual child becomes as mature as me, how far along will they be toward being like Jesus?

4. A mentor opens doors.

- v. 17 - "I have sent Timothy"
- Here Paul tells them of Timothy's imminent arrival in order to help them to grow. Some might presume that being in a mentoring relationship means holding tight to your control over the person, but that's not true. You want to introduce the person to other mature believers and other positive spiritual influences that can add more to what you've shared. Jealousy should never be an issue with a spiritual mentor, but thankfulness at everything they learn, no matter who the source is.
- It may be opening a door to a relationship with another mature believer. It may be opening the door to a great book. It may be opening the door to a deep preacher. In any case, a spiritual mentor is looking to expand his spiritual child's world of influence.

5. A mentor shares biblical wisdom.

- v. 17 - "my ways," "teach everywhere"

- There is no substitute for a solid grounding in the Word. Mentoring is about developing a relationship and friendship, but it is not only about that. There must be a passion for spiritual maturity that comes from the Word.

6. A mentor isn't afraid to kick you in the seat of your pants.

- vv. 18-21.

- When the situation warrants, a mentor isn't afraid to get serious with the discipline. This is differentiated from point #1 mainly in severity. Here we are not talking about just an everyday problem, but a serious spiritual error that requires a serious response. The one who loves the spiritual child must also be willing to discipline the spiritual child.

Conclusion:

God has called each of us to go and make disciples, be a mentor. It's time to Step UP and make it happen!

And as you do....

You watch, you wait, you'll see!