



DISCIPLING

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Discipleship is the process of making followers of Jesus. What should be simple often looks complicated and elusive.

Men have told me about the determination of those who disciplined them. Sometimes the recipient wasn't even a Christian and was a reluctant participant. In one instance, when the discipler arrived, the young guy climbed out the toilet window and went to play with his mates. When he came back two hours later the man was still sitting in his car in the street outside the house. Another man cycled to meet his protégé, even on rainy days. Because of the faithfulness and persistence of their disciplers, the foundation was laid that brought both of these men to faith.

One man, although a life long believer, was first disciplined when he joined a Men's Small Group almost 20 years ago. It really was "iron sharpens iron". Some people are never really disciplined at all.

I trust that these articles encourage you to take a second look at discipleship.

John

John Subritzky



By Charlie Forrest

Mentoring - what is it all about? There are many different types of mentoring. We can mentor someone in a technical field, in sports, or in business. But what I am talking about here is discipling someone to grow spiritually, to discover their call in God and to become all that God would have them to be.

It sounds like a good idea. Most of us know we need it ourselves and feel we ought to be mentoring others, but how do we do it? The easiest way might be to go to a good bookstore and buy books, or attend a seminar to learn all about it. However nine times out of ten that approach does not work. It starts off well, but soon fades.

Why? Because real mentoring cannot be done because we ought to do it, or even because we need it ourselves, but rather it flows from a genuine love and concern for another person. It is based upon relationship, requiring trust from both parties - the one doing the mentoring and the one being mentored. It requires vulnerability, a willingness to be open and to share what is happening in the heart.

I personally experienced the benefit of this as a young man. An older man in the

church, Jerry, took me under his wing. Jerry was a straight talker and at times he even rebuked me publicly, no holds barred! But every Sunday lunchtime a place was set at his family meal table for me. Afterwards we would do the dishes together. In their house they had a dishwasher, but we still had to wash the dishes by hand, because during this time we would talk. He would challenge me, "you believe this...? Why?" "What basis do you have to believe it?" I had to come up with answers!

Jerry would make sure I came to the meetings, he supported and encouraged me and shared his own past mistakes with me. One time I was asked to preach on a Sunday night when not many people were there. I did a terrible job - I never wanted to speak again! But Jerry wouldn't let that happen. He insisted I do it again, and because of that experience I still preach today. We had a very close relationship, right up until the day he died. Much of what I am today is because one man cared enough to share his life with me, challenge, and push me at times to step out and trust God.

The most important aspect of mentoring, I believe, is the ability to see the one you are seeking to mentor as God sees them. It is very easy for us to write someone off because of the way we see them now. But we need to see them as God sees them, to see their heart. We need to believe and know the power of God to transform a life. When we mentor people in other areas, such as sport or business, we generally start with people who have some natural ability. However, in mentoring people spiritually, at times we may see little natural ability, but what we do see is "but God...". By His power He can take the smallest and weakest

person and transform them into a mighty servant of the Kingdom. A good example of this is David's men. They started out as discontented, indebted rabble, but were transformed into his "mighty men" (1 Sam 22:2, 2 Sam 10:7). The Bible is full of other examples of God taking a person and transforming them, including Gideon, Moses, Joshua, Jeremiah, Peter and Paul...

Our role is to come alongside people, to encourage them, pray with them, share our lives with them, and be open to what God would do in their lives.

Real mentoring is not based upon a formula, but involves working with God and developing a relationship with the one you are seeking to mentor. No two situations will be the same.

A young man came to work with our ministry in Hong Kong. When he came, the Lord put it on my heart to mentor him. When we first met he said, "I am a builder, I can't speak or do anything spiritual, just practical jobs". I told him straight, that was a lie from the enemy! Over the years I went out of my way to challenge him, encourage him, and put him in roles that made him grow in those areas. Today he and his wife have been through Bible College and are missionaries serving overseas.

God can take anyone and transform them. It is not the starting point that counts, but rather who God is and His call on our lives. Let's see people as God sees them and not write them off, but work with them, pray with them, share with them and challenge them - to become all that God would have them to be.

Excerpt from Men of Integrity May/June 09

So Who's Your Timothy?

Thursday, June 4

Secret of Success

Key Bible Verse: "The student who is fully trained will become like the teacher" (Luke 6:40) **Bonus Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:10-11, 14

My brother-in-law Scott is one of the most successful voice actors in Hollywood. I noticed that Scott had grown up with several other men who are still his good friends today. All of them are successful in their fields. For instance, one man is part owner of a rapidly growing national trucking company and another is a successful movie producer. They're all good men with healthy, happy marriages and families.

I asked Scott one day why he thought that all the men he'd grown up with were so successful today. It seems fairly rare that one boy out of a group of friends attains the kind of success in life that

these men have had, much less that *all* of them have.

The biggest reason, Scott replied, was that they were all raised by a group of involved fathers and other male mentors within the church they attended. They were all taught, encouraged, and held accountable by a group of good men. Bingo! It's that simple.

Every man who has succeeded at anything has had a mentor or mentors in his life. We've all had help along the way. Good help influences us one direction; bad help steers us in another.

—Rick Johnson in *The Power of a Man*

My Response: Good influences for which I'll thank God today include...

Thought to Apply: A father who teaches his children responsibility provides them with a fortune.

—SOURCE UNKNOWN

The Heart of a Father



Tavale Matai'a

For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. 1 Corinthians 4:15a

What is the difference between a teacher and a father? Tavale Matai'a points out that teachers are paid professionals who teach facts, skills and knowledge. After the lesson, both the teacher and student go home and generally don't think about each other until the next lesson. Conversely, a father gives of himself and always has his son in his heart. A father is concerned for the whole person, their character and the distant future. It is an emotional and a spiritual tie. The father tells his son the things he needs to hear, even if it is sometimes painful.

Tavale has "fathered" many young men. If they want to relate to him it will be in the nature of a father with his son. He tells them "If you want me to journey with you I will be upfront and not beat around the bush. I will ask the hard questions. I will spend time with you having coffee, hanging out or fishing. I will laugh with you,

pray with you and be there for you. Spiritual growth will be the focus, but this will end up being a long term relationship."

Some guys have never experienced a father's love and they get quite emotional at this offer because the need of the child heart has never been met. Over the decades Tavale has done this for dozens of men. He is proud that some of them have become more successful in ministry than he has.

Tavale believes in helping them grow roots in biblical principles as well as wings to fly with.



FORGING TOMORROW'S MEN

Wellington 11 - 12 September
Auckland 9 - 10 October

