

## Daily Devotional, October 9, 2020 From Discipled to Disciple

***<sup>7</sup> Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. Colossians 4:7-8 (NIV)***

What are you good at? No, not what you are good for; I asked you what you are good at!

Think about your life and identify something that you do well, then search your past and try to remember how you became good at that thing. Were you able to get there on your own? Did you figure it out by reading a book and then mastering it with a certain amount of practice? Or were you fortunate enough to have a mentor, that is, someone else who helped you, showing you how to get really good at it?

Chances are that, if you really are good at something, someone else had to help you get there. It is quite easy for us to read something and get a reasonable understanding of the subject, yet lack the ability to apply what we have learned.

I remember this debate in college as the students looked among the professors for the ones who had actually done the stuff they taught about. They did not want to learn from someone who taught theory; they wanted to learn from someone who had tested theory with practice and could teach from experience. This was even more apparent when I attended seminary. Students looked more deeply into credentials.

But our learning goes far beyond even this. Sitting under the tutelage of someone with experience is wonderful, but nothing compares to walking with them through the methods they use and submitting ourselves to their influence, allowing them to help craft our own techniques, mirroring theirs until we, too, have mastered their techniques..

This is *real* discipleship, and it is why Paul was not content to just send a messenger to deliver his letter to the Colossians. He wanted to send it with someone he trusted who could explain and model the things about which he wrote. He wanted to send it with someone who could take the abstract and make it real, who could transform students learning from a document into disciples of a Way.

Do you have someone in your life who can, or has done this for you? What person do you know that has established that position in your life; someone who demonstrates the why's, and the how's and the realities and joys of the Christian life, helping to disciple you into the image of Christ? And while we're talking about discipleship, just whom are *you* discipling? Who are your disciples?

We have a responsibility to learn from others and to seek others who can learn from us. This is how the kingdom of God will grow, and how we become more than students-this is how we become disciples. This is what we have also been called to. Let that be a thought for today. If you are not already mentoring someone, imagine who that person(s) might be. Don't ever think you are not capable or called. We all have something to share-skills and learnings we can pass on to others. Give that some thought. It would be a shame to hide that light of learning under a bushel basket. Covid or no covid, distancing does not mean we cannot still reach out to those who could use our knowledge and companionship in whatever way that can be accomplished. Let us act as Tychicus and be an encouragement to others.

***Prayer: Oh God, Thank You for giving us examples of discipleship in Your Word! I want to have those kinds of relationships in my life, but I am uncertain as to how to develop them. Please help me to find the right people and use me to build those relationships to further Your kingdom! In Christ's name I pray. Amen.***