

Practical Skills For Spiritual Leaders

Mentoring



Fathers

- One of the most effective things a father can do is spend time with his children.
 - Fathers must teach their children the right values.
 - They must tell them what is right.
 - Sometimes a father must discipline his children.
 - Spending time with your children is even more effective.
 - It builds confidence in them.
 - You show them by example.

Spiritual Mentoring

- Mentoring is an important part of spiritual leadership too.
 - A mentor counsels and guides the development of others.
 - We will look at three mentoring relationships from the Bible.
 - Elijah and Elisha
 - Moses and Joshua
 - Paul and Timothy

Elijah and Elisha

- They were both bold prophets.
- Each is known for great miracles.
- Their mutual journey begins at I Ki. 19.
 - Elisha honors his family, then follows Elijah.
 - Though Elisha had been anointed as prophet, he ministers unto Elijah.
- The Lord had foretold of Elisha's effectiveness ... "him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay."
- It appears they were together only a short time.

Elijah and Elisha

- During their mutual sojourn, Elisha witnesses the power of Elijah's ministry.
- Elisha witnessed Elijah's prophecy of Israel's victory over Syria (I Ki. 20).
- Elisha witnessed Elijah's boldness against Ahab (I Ki. 21).
 - Naboth was falsely accused, and stoned so that Ahab could have Naboth's vineyard.
 - Elijah pronounced strong judgment on them.
 - Ahab humbled himself at the words of Elijah.

Elijah and Elisha

- Elisha witnessed Elijah's fearlessness.
 - Ahaziah sent messengers three times to Elijah (II Ki. 1).
 - The first two times, Elijah consumed them with fire from heaven.
 - The third captain came in great fear and contrition, and Elijah responded.
 - Elijah wasn't swayed though.
 - He prophesied Ahaziah would die from the wounds he had received.
 - Ahaziah did die.

Elijah and Elisha

- The relationship between Elijah and Elisha ends in II Ki. 2, with the well-known story of the whirlwind and chariot of fire.
 - Knowing that he soon will be taken, Elijah tempts Elisha to tarry three times.
 - Elisha requests a double portion of Elijah's spirit.
 - Elisha will have to witness Elijah's departure to have his request.
 - Elijah is taken.
 - Elisha does witness it.
 - Elisha takes the mantle of Elijah, and immediately performs his first miracle, the parting of the Jordan River.

Elijah and Elisha

- What can we learn from the relationship between Elijah and Elisha?
 - Elijah inspired Elisha with confidence and boldness.
 - Elijah and Elisha spent time together. They shared powerful experiences.
 - Elisha submitted to Elijah's leadership.
 - Elisha consecrated himself.

Moses and Joshua

- Joshua experienced forty years of Moses' leadership.
 - Moses chose Joshua to lead the battle against the Amalekites (Ex. 17).
 - Joshua witnessed the parting of the Red Sea, manna every morning, quail from heaven, and water from the rock at Rephidim.
 - While Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands, Israel, under Joshua's command, prevailed.
 - Moses is told to write a memorial, and rehearse it to Joshua (Ex. 17:4):
 - Thus begins the tutelage of Joshua under Moses.
 - He is already being prepared to lead the conquest of Canaan.

Moses and Joshua

- Joshua played an important role at Mt. Sinai.
 - At Sinai, Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy elders are instructed to worship on the mountain.
 - There they all witnessed the glory of God.
 - Moses and his “minister” Joshua separate themselves from the others.
 - That close association with Moses spared Joshua from some evil events.
 - While Joshua was on Mt. Sinai with Moses, Aaron returned to the camp and made the golden calf.

Moses and Joshua

- Joshua was personally consecrated.
 - When the Tabernacle of the Congregation was established, God's glory filled the Tabernacle.
 - God spoke to Moses there.
 - Joshua was impacted greatly as well.
 - After the rest had left, Joshua remained in the Tabernacle (Ex. 33:11).

Moses and Joshua

- Joshua was committed to Moses.
 - He defended Moses' leadership when he felt it was challenged.
 - In Nu. 11, seventy elders prophesied around the Tabernacle as the Lord moved upon them.
 - When Eldad and Medad continued to prophesy in the camp, Joshua asked Moses to forbid them.
 - Moses refused to do so.
 - To the contrary, he wished all would prophesy.
 - Moses demonstrated meekness, experience and wisdom.
- As he had done with Joshua, he encouraged the development of others' ministries.

Moses and Joshua

- Joshua's faith was proven at Kadesh-Barnea (Nu. 13-14).
 - Of the twelve spies selected to spy out Canaan, only Joshua and Caleb bring a good report.
 - While others are fearful, Joshua is confident that the Canaanites are defenseless, and not to be feared (Nu. 14:9).
 - The people try to stone Joshua and Caleb.
 - God intervenes, and promises that, of living adults, only Joshua and Caleb will enter the Promised Land (Nu. 14:30-2).

Moses and Joshua

- The formal succession of leadership from Moses to Joshua begins in Nu. 27.
 - Moses charges Joshua before all the people.
 - Moses commands the people to obey Joshua.
 - Moses announces that Joshua will lead Israel to inherit the Promised Land (De. 1).
 - After Moses gives his farewell, Moses and Joshua present themselves before the Lord in the Tabernacle.
 - God's glory fills the Tabernacle again.
 - The spirit of wisdom falls upon Joshua at the death of Moses.
- There is no confusion.
- Under Joshua's leadership, they do possess the Promised Land.

Moses and Joshua

- What can we learn from the relationship between Moses and Joshua?
 - Moses and Joshua shared many mighty experiences:
 - Joshua learned from Moses' example.
 - Moses demonstrated support for Joshua.
 - Joshua was loyal to Moses.
 - Joshua was personally consecrated.
 - Through forty years of Moses' guidance, and his own personal faith and consecration, Joshua was groomed to lead Israel as the successor to Moses.

Paul and Timothy

- Paul was an outstanding missionary.
 - He evangelized and established churches throughout Galatia, Asia, Macedonia, Greece and Cyprus.
 - He excelled at developing church leaders.
 - Under his leadership, new works became self-sustaining and self-propagating.
 - He developed the leadership of other missionaries.
 - Barnabas
 - Silas
 - Titus
 - Erastus
- Paul's closest companion was Timothy.

Paul and Timothy

- Timothy joined Paul on Paul's second missionary journey (Ac. 16:1).
 - He immediately committed to Paul's leadership.
 - Timothy was quickly immersed in missionary life, traveling with Paul through Phrygia, Galatia, Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea.

Paul and Timothy

- Paul quickly recognized Timothy's leadership.
 - Paul left Silas and Timothy at Berea (Ac. 17:14).
 - Many times Paul would depend on Timothy's leadership.
 - When Paul traveled to Corinth, he sent Silas and Timothy to minister in Macedonia.
 - During Paul's third missionary journey, Timothy's ministry develops further.
 - Again, Paul sent Timothy to Macedonia, this time with Erastus.
 - Timothy is now leading Erastus.
 - Later on this same missionary journey, Timothy and others are sent ahead to Troas (Ac. 20:4-5).

Paul and Timothy

- I Timothy was written to do three things.
 - To strengthen Timothy's authority.
 - To embolden Timothy to deal with heresy.
 - To help Timothy develop church leaders (bishops).
- Timothy had become the pastor at Ephesus.
 - He was timid, yet Paul had enormous confidence in him.
 - Ephesus was a large, successful, evangelistic church, with membership in the thousands.
 - There were likely hundreds of bishops in Ephesus.
 - For this reason, developing church leaders was critical.
- Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus, and his return had been delayed.

Paul and Timothy

- Highlights from I Timothy.
 - Four times, Paul encourages Timothy to deal with heresy.
 - He instructs Timothy to be a strong leader.
 - Timothy is counseled to deal with women, widows and elders.
 - Instruction is given on qualifications of bishops and deacons.
 - Timothy is given exhortation.
 - To consecrate himself to grow in the ministry
 - To avoid temptation
 - To keep his charge from Paul
- Even after Timothy was established as a leader, Paul stayed in touch, offering invaluable advice from his ministerial experience.

Paul and Timothy

- II Timothy is a very personal letter.
 - Timothy is still in Ephesus. Paul is imprisoned in Rome.
 - Paul writes to encourage, strengthen and instruct Timothy.
- Highlights from II Timothy.
 - He encourages Timothy to be strong.
 - He warns Timothy of coming apostasy.
 - He offers personal instruction.
 - Paul senses the end of his own ministry.
- II Timothy is a touching, personal conclusion to a long relationship.

Paul and Timothy

- What can we learn from the relationship between Paul and Timothy?
 - Paul was an example to Timothy.
 - Paul spent much time with Timothy.
 - Paul treated Timothy as his son in the gospel.
 - Paul stayed in touch personally with Timothy.
 - Timothy submitted to every thing Paul asked him to do.
 - Timothy consecrated himself.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- Mentoring is a relationship; the success depends on both mentor and successor.
- The mentor must:
 - Spend time
 - Be an example
 - Build confidence
 - Stay in contact
 - Demonstrate commitment

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- The successor must:
 - Submit to the mentor's leadership
 - Trust
 - Show respect
 - Consecrate himself

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- Mentoring requires personal involvement.
 - Mentoring is more than just directing or managing someone else's activities.
 - A mentor must commit time with another.
 - A mentor must share experiences with another.
 - Foremost in the development of Elisha, Joshua and Timothy were the personal experiences they shared with Elijah, Moses and Paul.
- A mentor is an example.
 - It is important that the mentor be a positive example.
 - Elijah, Moses and Paul were all powerful, positive public figures.
 - Their personal lives were beyond reproach.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- A mentor builds confidence in others.
 - Developing confidence is part of developing leadership.
 - Understanding your influence and keeping trust are keys.
 - The mentor should teach confidence, express praise, and show trust in their successor.
 - Handling responsibility builds confidence.
 - Help them grow in responsibility under your guidance.
 - Elijah's example emboldened Elisha.
 - Moses nurtured Joshua's development through forty years of increasing responsibility and trust.
 - Paul gave increasing responsibility to Timothy, eventually entrusting the care of the Ephesian church to him.
 - In the end, the greatest source of confidence was that these mentors entrusted the continuance of their ministries to their successors.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- A mentor should stay in contact with the successor whenever possible.
 - Elijah's and Moses' mentoring ended abruptly.
 - Paul's influence continued after the establishment of Timothy's leadership.
 - Mentoring is a relationship.
 - It is not an act, or just a series of steps.
 - Don't abandon them.
- When tests of leadership come, a successor still needs wise counsel and confidence of the mentor's experience to guide him.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- A mentor must demonstrate continuing commitment to their successor, both publicly and privately.
 - Mentors play an important role in establishing the leadership of their successors publicly.
 - Moses publicly appointed Joshua to lead Israel.
 - When Timothy faced opposition, Paul supported Timothy publicly and strongly.
 - Private commitment is just as important.
 - Paul personally encouraged Timothy.
 - Paul privately advised Timothy.
 - The personal bond between these two was so strong that when Paul was lonely and imprisoned, he sought the comfort of his successor Timothy.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- The successor must submit to the mentor's leadership.
 - The mentor has invested himself.
 - Elisha, Joshua and Timothy learned by following the direction of Elijah, Moses and Paul.
- A successor must trust his mentor.
 - The mentor has learned important lessons from experience.
 - The mentor will test your leadership and push you to develop.
 - The successor must trust the mentor's wisdom.
 - Elisha trusted Elijah's wisdom.
 - Joshua trusted Moses' treatment of Eldad and Medad.
 - Timothy stayed in Ephesus, though he wasn't naturally forceful.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- A successor must show respect to the mentor.
 - The mentor has given guidance, and entrusted you with leadership.
 - Don't regard that commitment lightly; respect their commitment to you.
 - Elisha asked Elijah's permission to honor his family before following Elijah.
 - Joshua defended Moses when he sensed rebellion.
 - Though Timothy was pastor of a successful church, he respected Paul's apostleship.

Keys to Successful Mentoring

- The successor must be consecrated personally.
 - A mentor inspires leadership, but cannot force personal consecration.
 - We must decide for ourselves.
 - Elisha showed his consecration before his family.
 - Elisha demonstrated his continuing consecration after Elijah's departure.
 - Joshua demonstrated his consecration in the Tabernacle, at Kadesh-Barnea, and throughout the conquest of Canaan.
 - Timothy's consecration endured beyond Paul's farewell.
 - They had great help from their mentors, but Elisha, Joshua and Timothy became great leaders themselves primarily through personal consecration.
- If both mentor and successor do their part, mentoring is an effective tool to develop spiritual leadership.