

THE APPRENTICE

Can the Donald teach us something about discipleship?

Apprentice: Somebody who works under a skilled professional in order to learn an art, craft, or trade and become qualified in it.

Apprenticeship and Discipleship have many similarities, except that an apprenticeship usually has a transfer of hands-on skill connotation while discipleship has more of a connotation of a transfer of ideas. This lesson explores the parallels between apprenticeships with biblical models for discipleship.

What professions go through an apprenticeship?

- **Scientists** – Five or more years of grad school -
- **Physicians** – Why can't you just learn surgery from reading a book?
- **Craftsman** – They've been apprenticing for a few thousand years
- **Teachers** – Student teaching

Why do these and other professions have mandatory apprenticeships?

- Complicated knowledge requirements for job
- Extensive number of aspects to job
- Precision and accuracy of the work is critical – life or death issues involved in some cases
- Excellence in the job is required and expected
- Books usually can't cover every possible scenario; some tools are unique and many are very specialized
 - **Perks:** Professions are usually highly compensated (*not the teachers*); Well respected

Why is learning by watching someone else so important?

- Mentor simplifies the knowledge gathering process.
- Mentor has a partial map. Apprentice makes it more detailed. This process gets repeated.
- Mentor tries to help pupil avoid making the same mistakes they made – 99 things didn't work. 1 did. Try the 1 first.

In the reality show The Apprentice, Donald Trump, initially started with 16 people and winnowed the group by subjecting them to various business trials. Performance and personalities were evaluated and a single winner emerged that presumably would have the best chance of making more money for Trump and promoting his interests. Trump had criteria for picking an apprentice. How should we go about being an apprentice and a mentor?



Qualities of an Apprentice

- **Teachable** – willing to learn new things
- **Learns how to learn** – once you know how to teach yourself, it's easier to teach someone else
- **Becomes partner in learning and knowledge acquisition**
- **Innovator** – looks to break new ground

Qualities of a Mentor

- **Knowledgeable** – must have detailed knowledge of subject
- **Good teacher** – must be able to communicate ideas in an efficient manner
- **Patient** – understands pratfalls and helps apprentice through set backs
- **Commits time** – needs to be available and isn't distracted

Biblical Discipleship

Jesus and the 12 Disciples: Jesus went out and convinced 12 men to leave their careers and follow Him.

Matthew 4 ¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Luke 9 ¹ Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. ² He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Why did Jesus choose the men that he did?

How did Jesus train them?

Were they good disciples? Why or why not?

When did they show what they had learned?

Paul and Timothy: Paul takes a young man and turns him into a co-laborer in the faith

1 Timothy 1:2 – To Timothy, a true son in the faith

2 Timothy 1:8-9 – Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

2 Timothy 2:2 –And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

▪ **Implications for the disciplined Christian life**

- **If the method of discipleship/apprenticeship was good enough for Jesus & Paul, shouldn't it be good enough for us?**
- **We are dealing with life and death issues, shouldn't we take the propagation of the faith very seriously?**
- **Expect and cultivate excellence.**
- **Other ideas ...**