

[Unedited]

The Mentoring Method of Jesus

Luke 5:1-11

Good morning, men. A female reporter from Fox News was describing an interview she had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries he had been to, she asked him if he had to learn several languages. He said, “No, ma’am. We don’t go there to talk.”

I want to make you men aware that nearly every day I post a brief devotional on Facebook. For those of you who are on Facebook you can go to the “Patrick Morley Author” page. Click “like” and you can get those devotionals.

The title of the talk today is, “The Mentoring Method of Jesus.” Jesus had a mission. His mission required men of talent equal to Navy SEALs. His mission was total global conquest. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Jesus came to die to sacrifice His life to save people. Jesus came to inaugurate a new kingdom and His mission was total global conquest.

WHAT JESUS DID

The first thing we want to talk about today is what Jesus did. He inspired a dozen men to leave everything behind and follow Him. That was His strategy. He inspired men to abandon everything to which they were fettered and to follow Him.

What kind of men did Jesus pick? Unexpected leaders. He picked men like you. He picked men who were F.A.T. : faithful, available, teachable.

He picked men who were faithful, available and teachable. God works through the present and willing, not the absent and able. He chose men who were teachable. Why was His strategy to pick only a few men? Jesus focused on a few to reach the many.

A lot of strategies try to go after the masses to win a few. Jesus used exactly the opposite strategy. He went after a few to reach the many. Why did He do that? If you go after the masses to reach a few you end up with a few, but they are not trained and they are not equipped to take it to the next generation.

To expand the work into the future, Jesus did the opposite. Jesus always had a ministry to the masses. He was always talking to the crowds, but He always had a few men He focused on – men He was building into. They were faithful, available and teachable men who in turn could take this message to others. Basically Jesus recruited SEAL Team 6.

They were the best of the best. They were ordinary men. They were unexpected leaders. They were willing to leave everything and follow Him. The mentoring method of Jesus boils down to recruiting men who will leave everything and follow Him. Today Jesus is looking for the next twelve men.

The table leaders at this Bible study are the SEAL Team 6 of this generation. These are the best men God has. They are men who have left everything to follow Jesus.

You have the opportunity to be part of a SEAL team too. You may not be on SEAL Team 6 but you can still be a SEAL, and be one of this generation's twelve. This generation's twelve is twelve million or so—there are millions of us now because the mission worked. Jesus focused on the few to reach the many instead of focusing on the many to reach the few.

Jesus focused on men like you – through that He reached many. Jesus is looking for the next twelve and that is the big idea today. **Mentoring is all about helping Jesus raise up the next twelve.** If you are a younger guy you should be thinking, "I want to be in the next twelve." If you are a more mature guy you should think, "I want to help identify and raise up the next twelve." That is what mentoring is all about.

The first week of this series we said God ordained His best men to invest in other men. In the second week, we said that mentoring is all about helping Sauls make Pauls. This week is about Jesus raising up the next SEAL team. The nice thing about being a part of Jesus' mission of total global conquest is that you do not have to get out when you are 28 years old. You can keep going all the way.

I am 63 years old. Did you hear that? I'm as passionate about Jesus Christ today...actually I take that back. I am not as passionate today about Jesus Christ as I was when I first started out. I am *more* passionate about Jesus Christ today than when I first started. You can be, too, and if you are not – gut check. You are His SEALS. You are the best of the best. He appointed you, He anointed you, He called you, and He sent you to go out and raise up the next twelve. That is the deal.

We looked at what Jesus did. Now we will look at how He did it. Luke 5 is our text for the day. Let us turn there. This is the calling of the first disciples. This is not the first time Jesus called the disciples. He does it in Mark, Matthew, and also in John. Jesus had already encountered Andrew. Andrew and one other disciple were disciples of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by, John said behold the lamb of God, and the two disciples followed the lamb of God. Jesus looked around and said what do you want? They wanted to know where he was going to be and He said come and see. Later He said, "Follow me."

Jesus had already been collecting the disciples. He was looking for particular kinds of men. He was looking for men who would follow Him; men who would be willing, who had curiosity, who would come and see who He was. When Jesus said, "Follow me," those men would follow Him.

At this point in the text, these disciples had been following Jesus. They had already seen Him turn water into wine. They had already seen Him do a number of miracles in Capernaum, which is where they were now living. In fact, this takes place just after Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother of a fever and then she prepared the meal.

HOW HE DID IT

Luke 5:1, "One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, [the Sea of Galilee] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God."

How did He do it? The Word of God is an important part of mentoring. Jesus was the Word of God. We now have the Bible as the Word of God. You cannot mentor without the Word of God. There are other kinds of mentoring but we are talking here about distinctly Christian mentoring. The main distinctive of Christian mentoring is Christ. Any mentoring we do that does not involve the truth and the authority and the power and inspiration of the Word of God is not really mentoring— it is just doing what they do down at a rotary meeting. That can be fine, but this is different.

Luke 5:2, “He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.”

Notice Jesus in the early stages of mentoring. He gives His mentees (the disciples) small assignments. “Let Me sit in your boat,” He says.

Jim Siebert is not here today. He was the Man in the Mirror Bible Study Administrator for 17 years. When he first came to this Bible study he was not walking with God. He sat at his table and did not say a word for six months. He said, “My table leader must have been smart because he never asked me to say anything. If he did I would have been out of there so fast you would never have seen me again.” Six months later his table leader Scott Alexander asked who would like to close in prayer. Jim said, “I’d like to give that a try.” The Holy Spirit entered his life in a powerful way and he was never the same again.

Three weeks later he comes to me and says, “What can I do to help around here?” I’m thinking give him small assignments; ask him to let me sit in the boat. I told him, “The guy who used to get the orange juice can’t do it anymore. Would you be willing to pick it up on the way to the Bible study?” He said, “Sure. I can do that.” A few weeks later he asked if there was anything else he could do around here. I said, “Yes, the guy who picks up the doughnuts said he’d like someone else to pick them up. Would you like to?” He said, “Sure. I can do that.” Every time I gave Jim an assignment he was faithful.

After about a year I said, “Hey look, I’m the Bible teacher, and then there’s all this other stuff that goes on. Why don’t you become the Bible study administrator? I can do the teaching and you can do everything else.” He said he would love to do that. He did and he was faithful.

Give men little assignments when you are mentoring them. We are looking for F.A.T. men: faithful, available and teachable.

Luke 5:4: “When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’”

This is a riot: a carpenter telling a fisherman how to catch fish. Don’t you just love it when someone butts in? What you are doing is not working, you are in the recession, what you are selling is not selling well, and someone comes along and tells you to do it a different way. But this is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 5:5-10: “Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this,

he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners."

In the New Living Translation it says that Simon was awestruck. I just happened to read this text this week. How do you pick a text for such a broad topic as mentoring? I happened to read this in the One Year Bible this week in the New Living Translation. When I read that, it said that Peter was awestruck and the Holy Spirit came over me. I said, "God, that's what I want. I want to be awestruck. I want to live an awestruck life. I want your awe to strike me every day."

Remember what the disciples said as they were walking along the road with Jesus on the way to Emmaus? "Did not we feel our hearts burn within us?" That is what I want. And that is what Jesus wants for the next twelve—for the men we will mentor. He wants them to be awestruck.

If you will walk with a man to help him find Jesus and take him on the road to find Jesus, Jesus will orchestrate these awestruck moments. He did it for Saul on the road to Damascus. He struck Saul with awe. He struck Peter and the others with awe.

Do you want to be awestruck? Do you want to lead an awestruck life? Of course you do. How do you do that? You do it by bringing yourself into the real presence of Jesus. That is what is going on here. These men are in the real presence of Jesus.

Your mentees want to be struck by awe. They want to lead powerful transformed lives. They do not want tepid lukewarm lives. They are looking for someone to help them walk along the path where they will be struck with awe.

Guess what? If you help a mentee get struck with awe you probably will be in the strike range yourself. I will tell you one more thing. There is nothing that makes me more awestruck than to see a guy get it. That makes me awestruck.

Reading on in Luke 5 from the second half of verse 10: "Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

Jesus' mission is total global conquest. He started by inspiring twelve men who pulled their boats up on shore to leave everything and follow Him. And guess what? That's exactly what He is still doing. He is still inspiring men to abandon everything that keeps them fettered to this world and follow Him.

This does not mean that you quit your job or leave your wife. This does not mean you sell your house, or pack up and leave and let the lender worry about it. You have responsibilities. We all will have these responsibilities and to some degree our sinful natures keeps us fettered to the world. We may be in bondage to some things. But you can break free from that by responding to the awe.

Let me tell you a sad, sad story. This is such a sad story it makes me want to cry even before I tell you about it.

I was taught early in my spiritual journey that there was a cessation of miracles at the closing of the New Testament canon. In other words, once the final ink was dry on the New Testament canon, that was the end of miracles. I was taught and I believed that miracles had ceased. Even though I would hear about miracles I would discount them. I would look for naturalistic explanations. There is a thing called the noetic influence of sin, a noose of the mind, in which sin has influenced the mind so we are unable to think the pure thoughts of God all the time. Since we are corrupted by sin I thought maybe the people describing the miracle have twisted it and wanted to believe a miracle.

A couple of weeks ago I was reading a book by Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*. I realized after I closed the book that I have really missed it. I have allowed my theology to put limits on God.

At about the same time I was reading the story of Bartimaeus, the blind man in my daily reading in the One Year Bible. He could see Jesus – he was blind but he could see Jesus. All the other people could not see Jesus. He came to Jesus, and Jesus said, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Men, right now Jesus is asking you, “What do you want me to do?”

Bartimaeus said, “I want to see.” Jesus answered, “Go. Your faith has made you well.” I want to believe. I want to believe God. I do not want to believe the limits are on God that men put on God because they cannot believe that God is God.

This is what it means to disciple men: to help them see the God who is not just the God they want. The big idea today is this: **mentoring is all about helping Jesus raise up the next twelve**. Jesus is still on the same mission—total global conquest—and He is still using the same strategy. He is focusing on a few men who will reach many.

You know this is true. You can create converts en masse. You can have a big meeting and create a lot of converts. I do that. I am involved in that. But let me tell you, a convert does not a disciple make. Disciples cannot be massed produced. You cannot mass produce a disciple. Making disciples is a very personal process. It is an intimate experience in terms of getting to know someone, and what their unique wiring is. It is helping them become the men God wants them to be. It is all about raising up the next twelve, and then the next twelve and the next twelve.

HOW WE CAN MENTOR LIKE JESUS

We covered what Jesus did, and how He did it, and now we will look at how we can mentor like Jesus.

The big picture is that we want to help men live awestruck lives. How can you help another man live an awestruck life if you are not leading an awestruck life? The first step is to get yourself into the place of awe and struck. Jeremiah 20:9 is one of my favorite verses. Jeremiah had been held in stocks overnight and he is released. He is lamenting and says, “I don’t understand— I do what you want and get insulted and reproached. These people hate me.” And then he says, “But if I say, ‘I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,’ his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.”

That guy has a passion for God. Put yourself in the place of being struck by awe. Take a stand. Drive a stake in the ground. I am going to be on the next SEAL Team.

I would rather be a SEAL on any team than not be a SEAL at all. I want to be a part of total global conquest. I do not want to see the world go to Christ and not have a part in it. I do not want to be looking back ten years from now thinking, *I wish I would have done more*. We want to be in the deal.

There are two ways to be in the deal. If you are already there then bring the next twelve along. Or if you are not already there, find someone who can help you be one of the next twelve— that is what mentoring is all about.

I was talking this week on the phone with my good friend of 20 years Steve Ferrar. He wrote the book *Point Man* and conducts seminars.

He was telling me how God has been speaking to his heart about reaching and speaking into the lives of younger men. He and I are about the same age. God has been speaking into my heart about the importance of reaching out to younger guys. Guess what? Almost everybody I talk to is talking about how God put it in their hearts to speak into the lives of younger men.

When God has a message, or when a man thinks he has a message from God, and he thinks it is a unique message from God, it probably is not. Whenever God is getting ready to do something it is His general practice to put it in the hearts and minds of thousands and tens of thousands of His children.

It is encouraging to hear that men all across the country who are sensing the importance from the Holy Spirit for mature guys to be investing into the lives of younger guys. That is the heart of God right now.

Raising up the next twelve is what is the heart of God right now. If you want to be where God is, that is where you need to be; helping to raise up the next twelve – the next generation of guys who are really not converts but disciples. Those are men who will lead other men into faith. You will help men lead awestruck lives and take a stand.

Do not be afraid. That is what it says in the text. Jesus told Simon not to be afraid – “from now on you will catch men.” Paul said it this way: “Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.” Do not be afraid to be a mentor. Do not be afraid to be a mentee. Do not be afraid to do this deal. Have confidence. Yes, you are a sinner. Everybody that does this is a sinner. The most important religious leaders in the world today are sinners.

This is what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:16: “But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.”

That is why Paul could say, “Follow me as I follow the example of Christ.” How do you feel about this? I am saying to you right now – follow me as I follow Christ. If in some way you see I am not following Christ, do not go in that direction with me; but, as I follow Christ follow me. You should not be afraid to

say that because you are going to be fishers of men. Many of you are big-time fishers of men but if you have not been, that is what God has for you if you want to be on SEAL Team 1.

The big idea today is this: **mentoring is all about helping Jesus raise up the next twelve men** and He gives us the privilege of being part of the deal of total global conquest.

What was it that inspired these twelve men to give up everything that had them fettered to the world and follow Jesus? It was Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Dear Father, we feel sometimes we are getting ready to lose the whole deal. We have already lost our way of life, and it feels like we will also lose our civilization sometimes. We know what we are supposed to do: go out and help You to inspire the next twelve to come on board. I pray You would help each of us to figure out how we are supposed to respond to Your Word in this message, and that You would give us the courage not to be afraid. We pray You would give us the courage You gave to Simon, Andrew, James, and John, and the others, and that we really would change this world. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.