

Di122 Essentials of Christianity

Lesson Di122-27 Church: Mentoring

If you want to learn to do something you have never done before, you can possibly have someone look it up on the Internet, or else try to find a person who can teach you to do that thing. The best way to learn is to be able to spend time with someone who is doing what you want to learn. Then you can learn by doing. You learn as you observe your teacher's example and as the teacher lets you help. You learn methods and acquire skills to do the job. This type of teaching is called 'mentoring.' The one being mentored is sometimes called an 'apprentice.' This is the method Jesus used with his disciples, when he was here on earth. It is also the way we as church leaders must 'disciple' others.

One of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, started out as a disciple of John the Baptist. On the day after Jesus had been baptized in water, John and two of his disciples were standing near the river. When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God." When the two disciples heard him say this, they were curious and started to follow Jesus.

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi, where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew was one of the two who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon Peter and tell him, "We have found the Messiah." And Andrew brought him to Jesus (John 1:35-42).

After John had been thrown into prison, Jesus was in Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. Andrew remembers a sunny dawn along the Sea of Galilee, the day that Jesus approached them again. He might have told it this way, "My brother Simon and I were just finishing up our morning fishing. My name is Andrew. I don't think we had caught very many fish, so we were casting our net one more time.

"We were not far from the shore, more than ready to beach the boat and get the fish we had to the market. Simon and I noticed this man beckoning to us to come ashore. As we were dragging the boat onto the shore he saw it was Jesus. He said to us, 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' There was something about his voice. He was very serious, as though he had the authority to command us as he did. We could see that he was a man who could change our lives.

"Simon and I looked at each other, left our nets, and followed him (Mark 1:17-18). I can tell you, after being with him for three years, what he said that day was true. I speak to you today as one who will never regret dropping what I thought was important and following Jesus.

The thing that he promised—‘I will make you fishers of men’—we can now say has been an abundant and meaningful experience.

“Making us fish for people turns out to be what each of us has the joy to do, just as Jesus did for us. We were fishermen by trade. That means that we got in the boat with our nets and went out on the lake trying to catch fish. Someone taught us to do that. In fact it was our father who taught us where to find the fish. He taught us when to go looking for fish. He taught us about our nets—how to make them and repair them, how to cast them and snare fish. Without his teaching we would have been poor and hungry fishermen indeed. Our father made us fishers of all kinds of fish and Jesus made us fishers of humanity.

“After we heard Jesus say, ‘I will make you fishers of men,’ he became our teacher, our mentor. We became his disciples. Oh, the things he taught us! And, wow, the things he showed us! We saw blind people regain their sight, lame people leap, demon-possessed people delivered and restored to their normal minds. We saw people’s lives changed forever. Their lives were filled with joy and peace with their Creator. Jesus taught us everything the Father in heaven commanded him. He taught how to touch heaven and listen to the Holy Spirit. He taught us how to love our enemies and how to care for widows and orphans. He taught us the message that we were to give to the world; the Good News that he had come as Savior, to set people free from sin.

“All this was ours as we decided to leave what we were doing as fishers of fish and follow him. The other thing that Jesus taught us was that we were to be light and salt in this world. We were to tell others the good news. We were to teach them all that he had taught us. What a joy it is to see others drop what it is they are doing to follow Jesus Christ and to become fishers of people! We are now able to disciple others the same way he disciplined us.

“Simon Peter and I were surprised the day Jesus came and asked us to follow him. We went that day, not knowing what he had in mind for us. But we have never thought about leaving him to become fishers of fish again. He made us fishers of people. Never doubt him when he comes to call you to make you fishers of men and women, boys and girls.

“Now he has commanded us to teach and show others how to live and follow Jesus. He has revealed to us how to teach others and how to show the younger Christians the way to overcome this world. His last words to us were, ‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matt 28:19-20).

This lesson is **important** because it teaches us what Jesus desires for us as we follow him. His desire is that we become fishers of people and that we teach others to do the same. The church is the place for mentoring people, showing them how to be disciples of Jesus by your example.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that Jesus will ask us to follow him, so that he can teach us his ways. In turn, he has commanded us to teach others what he has taught us. This way the

Good News will be passed from generation to generation and many will find Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Your **review** questions are:

1. Why did Simon and Andrew leave everything to follow Jesus? [Pause]
A. If you answered, “Simon and Andrew left everything because they realized Jesus had authority to command them and also to make them fishers of men,” you are right.
2. What is our responsibility as we commit to follow Jesus? [Pause]
A. If you answered, “Whatever Jesus has shown and taught us, we are to teach others,” you have answered correctly.
3. What was Jesus’ last instructions to his disciples? [Pause]
A. If you answered, “The last words of Jesus instructed them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them,” you are correct.

Your **assignment** is:

Listen to the lesson several times and discuss the contents with two others, making sure you understand the main points. What has Jesus taught you lately? Have you taught this to someone else who is committed to following him? Pray with one or two other believers, that you may all dedicate your lives to learning about Jesus and to teaching others about him.

Memorize these last words of Jesus to his disciples: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).