

Day 66 – May 1

Mentoring is an incredibly important thing in the Christian world. Unfortunately, it is also becoming a lost art. Few people I speak with have a mentor, often because we think of a mentor as a formal position, appointed by someone. But if we widen and relax the definition to someone older who intentionally passes their wisdom on to us, then we find that many have mentors without realizing it.

Elijah was a mentor, but that relationship primarily began as a help to Elijah, not Elisha. Elijah was simply worn out with the ministry God had called him to, and so God offered him some help in the form of Elisha. And a mentoring relationship was born. Elisha served Elijah, helped him with his work, and along the way, learned from him. And so finally, when it was time for Elijah to end his ministry, he “passed the mantle” to Elisha, literally. Elisha had learned enough and was entrusted with Elijah’s spirit, Elijah’s ministry, and Elijah’s authority.

Did you have a mentor? Do you currently? Mentors are not accidental and they aren’t simply an adult we have learned from. Mentors are intentional.

Have you mentored anyone? Are you currently? Just as your mentor needs to be someone intentionally teaching and training you, so you need to be intentionally teaching and training someone else in your ministry. If you aren’t, then when you finish your ministry, it stops.

Ancient Israel had 2 primary seas; the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Galilee was not just full of fish, it supplied fish for all the towns surrounding it. The Dead Sea on the other hand is devoid of life. It supplies nothing of worth to the surrounding communities. And the difference? Both have water flowing into them, but only the Sea of Galilee has water flowing out. Because it is both taking in water and releasing that water to other sources (most notably the Jordan River), it is full of life. Because the Dead Sea has nowhere for the water to go except through evaporation, it leaves the salt behind, adding it to the salt flowing into it and it is dead.

We all have life flowing into us, through worship, bible reading, studies, mentors, and examples of the faith. But if we don’t have life flowing out of us as well, through outreach, evangelism, and most importantly mentoring, we will be as dead as the Dead Sea.

If you are mentoring someone right now, let me encourage you to keep up the good work. If not, find someone to take on as a mentee, approach them, and begin that relationship. Only then can you truly be a source of life to the world around you.