
WHERE DO THE MENTORS GO?

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INTRODUCTION:

Hard lesson. Love mentoring younger men, seeing growth. Chiefest of sinners, against family and self.

Some disturbing statistics (terms like “pastor/congregants” are used accommodatively).

1. National surveys indicate preachers are possibly the most frustrated, neglected group in the country. They are expected to...
 - i. Lead others w/inspiration, encouragement and a positive attitude.
 - ii. Organize, manage and supervise a volunteer staff.
 - iii. Know and work with media, advertising, with no budget.
 - iv. Be an educator with ability to teach, good study skills.
 - v. Create and develop own teaching materials, with no budget.
 - vi. Perform official functions with grace.
 - vii. Be talented in private, public communications and produce results.
 - viii. Be able to appropriately manage and resolve conflicts.
 - ix. Be available for hospital, jail or handholding sessions.
 - x. Authentically, genuinely represent God. Live a holy life.
 - xi. 73% of congregants expect the “pastor” to live at a higher level.
2. 80% of pastors discouraged or dealing w/depression.
 - i. 84% of pastor’s spouses depressed.
 - ii. 49% say family life suffering (George Barna Survey).
 - iii. 37% admit inappropriate sexual behavior.
3. 90% of pastors say they’re inadequately trained to do the job.
 - i. 50% feel unable to do the job.
 - ii. 70% don’t have a close friend (Fuller institute).
 - iii. 80% don’t have a close friend (Ministries Today).
4. Any wonder? 30-40% of pastors expressed a desire to quit!
5. On top of all responsibilities, expectations...
 - i. The nature of leadership is to lead and guide others.
 - ii. People generally think of their leaders as mostly right.
 - iii. Leaders perceive themselves as that way also.
 - iv. Makes it difficult to see selves as wrong, needing help.
6. Teachers, preachers, leaders and mentors need help too.

DISCUSSION:

- I. MENTORS NEED PRAYER, LIKE JESUS
 - A. Mt. 14:23; Mk. 6:46 – Sent crowds away, went alone to Mt.
 - B. Jn. 17 – Records beautiful high priestly prayer for those left behind
 - C. To me, Luke gives the best tools to develop prayer
 1. Lk. 3:21 – Anointed w/HS while praying
 2. Lk. 5:16 – Often slip away to wilderness
 3. Lk. 6:12 – Spent all night before choosing apostles

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4. Lk. 9:18 – Was praying alone
 5. Lk. 9:28 – Went to Mt. to pray and was transfigured
 6. Lk. 11:1 – After one prayer, the disciples requested instruction
 7. Lk. 22:44 – Prayed in agony, fervently, sweating
- D. We need to get away, get alone, dedicate, spend time, speak out loud, and let passion rise.
- II. MENTORS NEED GOOD ASSOCIATION & GOOD NEWS, LIKE PAUL
- A. 1 Cor. 1:3-9 – Speaks of comfort in shadow of stress/death
 - B. 2 Cor. 2:12-13 – Speaks of leaving work for stress/concern
 - C. 2 Cor. 7:5-7 – Comforted by Titus, good news, good result
 - D. Back to Intro, 3, iii., - 80% have no close friend, good news?
- III. MENTORS NEED BALANCE
- A. Study? Eccl. 12:12 – excessive devotion to books is...
 - B. Eccl. 7:16 – Not excessively righteous...overly wise
 - C. “*Leaders That Last*”, by Alfred H Ells – burnout?
 1. Focus on God’s directions and expectations, not others
 2. Play to your strengths, find help for weaknesses
 3. Balance your lifestyle, establish boundaries, say no!
 - i. Separate work, play, family, friends and personal care.
 4. 1 Kings 19:3-8 – Be health conscious
 - i. Mk. 6:31 – Jesus took disciples aside to a lonely place
 5. Pro. 28:13 – Don’t allow past sins to weigh you down.
- IV. MENTORS NEED MENTORS
- A. Paul Stanley & Robert Clinton, Fuller Seminary – “In our studies of leaders, we can clearly conclude with few exceptions that those who experienced anointed ministry and finished well had a significant network of meaningful relationships that inspired, challenged, listened, pursued, developed, and held one another accountable. Those that failed to reach full maturity and finish well did not have it...a network...of relationships is not an option...it is imperative!”
 - B. Lk. 22:32 – Peter set on path of strengthening brothers
 - C. Pro. 27:9; 17:17; 18:24 – It is wisdom
 - D. Teachers need teachers, leaders/leaders, mentors/mentors.

CONCLUSION:

Where do the mentors go?

1. They go to God for support and guidance
2. They go to good association for refreshment
3. They go to a balanced life for strength
4. They go to their own teachers for teaching

As with many problems, the issue is not that we don’t know what to do; the issue is just doing what we know!