

THE SIX WEEK PURSUIT HEROE'S LEGACY

WEEK 2 – HUMBLeness

Monday - “What is a Mentor?”

Devotional:

According to the dictionary it is a relationship between two people where the individual with more experience and knowledge is able to pass along what they have learned.

I have had such a person in my life for many years. I first met Marlene in the early 70's, when we moved to Hawaii. It was there I came into Pentecost. This was a whole new experience for me spiritually and culturally.

Pastor Bloom knew that I would need a strong, steadfast, believer to guide and anchor me in this marvelous new walk with God and she chose Marlene to, more or less, take me under her wing.

Marlene was truly an example of a godly believer and in all the years that I have known Marlene her walk with God never faltered. She never put on air of “I am a better Christian and know more than you, so you have to listen to what I say.” She had a way of sharing God's Word in such a simple way. When she was through with her explanation, she would just wait patiently and let it sink into this stubborn heard. I don't know if she saw a light bulb go off in my head, (more likely the Holy Spirit) because she would say “yes, yes, yes, she's getting it.” She was never judgmental or put off by my questions, doubts, or fears.

Marlene was as single mom with a young daughter when I first met her. Marlene never remarried and made the decision to dedicate her life to Christ. She instilled all of these godly principles in her daughter, but like many children, her daughter walked away from God, got pregnant, married a man, (who turned out to be a serial rapist), and Marlene's daughter became his cover for being a normal God-fearing man. Still, Marlene never lost faith during those difficult, heartbreaking years. She continued to stand on God's Word that her daughter would come back to God. She stood on His Word: “Train a child in the way they shall go and when they are old, they will not depart from it.” Her example gave me the strength to stand on God's Word for my wayward boys until they came back to Him. She showed me how important it is to stand no matter what. She not only spoke His Word, but she also put into practice what she believed; that is a godly mentor. A true God-fearing mentor affects you for the rest of your life.

Through these many years she is still an important influence in my life, in my family, and I in hers. We may be separated by miles, even when she went to Israel to work with her aunt in spreading the Gospel to the Arabs, our bond was never broken. In fact, it has only gotten stronger. This reminds me of that song: “Friends are friends forever, when the Lord is the Lord of them.”

In closing, I need to say one more thing about a mentor and that is this: “It isn’t just a one-sided relationship where you glean all the benefits.” Throughout these many years, we both have been blessed. And it goes beyond that, because if we don’t share the principles that we have gleaned from the mentors in our lives, we miss a tremendous blessing.

Marlene’s example of being a godly mentor has been instrumental to me in learning how to listen, exhort, and pray with those in need. I am so reminded of Timothy, who had probably the best mentor in his life: Paul.

In 1 Timothy 5, Paul gives the best illustration of a mentor and how to treat people, mainly believers. Read the whole chapter, but the two things that stood out to me are: to have respect for one another, and second to exhort and not to rebuke. Exhorting brings encouragement, where rebuking someone brings resentment. Let us each be that kind of mentor that helps encourage one another to finish the race and not to give up.

- Anne Lawver

Reflection:

As Jesus followers we are called to display Jesus to everyone around us. We are all commanded, by Jesus, to make disciples, that is: be mentors. Who can you mentor? Who are you showing Jesus? How could you show Jesus more clearly?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for believers like Marlene. We are thankful for examples of faith, and we pray you would bless them immensely. Help us be like those who came before us that we may show you, Jesus, clearly to the world around us. Amen.