

The Rhythm of Discipleship: Receive, Invest, Multiply

Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 16:1–3

Today we will continue to consider what it means to live as apprentices of Jesus - people who receive from Him, invest in others, and multiply His love through intentional relationships.

Throughout the fall, our church has been asking, *“What would Jesus do if He were me?”* One powerful answer is this: **Jesus would mentor.** He would invest deeply in people. He would see potential, nurture patiently, and teach through both word and example.

We’ll look at two key passages that show this rhythm in action.

Matthew 28:18–20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 16:1–3

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

From these passages, we’ll discuss three aspects that shape our own calling as followers of Jesus: **Receive, Invest, and Multiply.**

1. RECEIVE – Be Mentored by Jesus (and His Apprentices)

Discipleship begins with receiving. Before we can invest in anyone else, we must first be mentored by Jesus — through His Word, His Spirit, and through others who walk closely with Him.

To receive means allowing ourselves to be shaped by Jesus - to let His teaching and example transform our thoughts, habits, and heart. It’s more than gaining knowledge; it’s formation through relationships.

Jesus modeled this with His disciples. For three years, He walked alongside them, teaching, correcting, and encouraging them. When He sent them out in Matthew 28, He was essentially saying, *“Now do for others what I’ve done for you.”*

(I’ll share a personal story that illustrates how receiving mentorship from a follower of Jesus can shape a life in lasting ways.)

2. INVEST – Mentor Others

Discipleship doesn't stop with receiving; it continues through investing. Even as we continue learning, we're called to pour into others - sharing what we've been given, walking alongside people, and helping them grow in faith and character.

Paul did this with Timothy. He saw potential in a young man and chose to bring him along, teaching him not only what to believe but how to live out the gospel in daily life. That's what true mentorship looks like - not a program or curriculum, but life shared with purpose and love.

Investing in others doesn't require perfection. It simply requires presence, patience, and the willingness to walk with someone through the ups and downs of life.

(I'll share a story about what this kind of everyday investment can look like — often quiet, but can be deeply meaningful.)

3. MULTIPLY – Disciples Make Disciples

The final movement is multiplication. Jesus' vision for His Church was never about addition — it was about exponential growth through disciples who make disciples.

Why does multiplying matter? **...because, God first loved us.** Because Jesus first mentored us. Because Jesus died on the cross so that we may be redeemed and know the wholeness and fullness of life in Him and through Him. And we can share that Love, joy and peace with others.

Paul invested in Timothy, Timothy went on to invest in others, and the pattern has continued across generations. That's how the gospel moves forward: through people who are willing to pass on what they've received.

When we invest in one person, and they invest in another, the impact reaches far beyond what we can see. This is how Jesus' love and truth spread — through ordinary people, in ordinary places, empowered by an extraordinary God.

CONCLUSION

The rhythm of discipleship is both simple and powerful: **Receive from Jesus. Invest in others. Trust God to multiply.**

Each of us has received from someone - a mentor, a parent, a teacher, a friend. Jesus continues to mentor us through His Spirit today. And now, He invites us to do the same for others.

Take time this week to reflect:

- Who has invested in me?
- How is Jesus still mentoring me right now?
- Who might God be calling me to invest in next?