

INVESTING IN OTHERS

Moses and Joshua // Numbers 27:12-23

THE POINT

Mentor and disciple those who come after you.

Discipleship is a process that involves our growing in the Lord as others invest in us. As we mature, our investment in others helps them grow. Moses received wisdom from Jethro, and he also invested in Joshua. Timothy learned from Paul, and then later became a pastor and invested in a lot of people. Again and again in Scripture, we see this pattern. And if we pay attention, we'll see this pattern over and over in our churches today. Be a part of this process—learn from someone more mature, and share what you learn with others.

➤ Key Question

How would you describe the people you look up to?

Moses certainly wasn't perfect. When he was young, he became very angry, committed murder, and had to flee for his life. Later, as he was leading Israel, he became frustrated with the people and disobeyed God, which resulted in Moses's not being allowed into the promised land. Despite his weaknesses, Moses was characterized by faithfully and wholeheartedly following God. When we decide who we might allow to speak into our lives, we must understand that no one is perfect. However, we must also be careful to make sure those we listen to are truly faithful followers of Jesus.

➤ Keep in Mind

When we invest in others, we must be careful to provide encouragement—even counsel or guidance—without telling others what to do. If Scripture expressly calls us to a given thing, then it's perfectly appropriate to encourage others to do those things. For instance, you should definitely spend significant time reading your Bible and praying. However, we must be very careful using *shoulds* and *shouldn'ts*—particularly if it's not a clear command from Scripture.

➤ Application

Why can it sometimes be difficult to entrust others with responsibility?

➤ Takeaway

Moses was a great leader. Joshua was too, but he was a very different person than Moses. You might be familiar with the phrase, *if you want something done right, do it yourself*. Sometimes, it can be easy for us—particularly strong and capable leaders—to want to do everything ourselves. After all, no one else will do it like we would. We're all different, and people are certainly going to do things their own way. But this is a beautiful thing. Following God means doing the best we can with our responsibilities and trusting Him to work in and through others in exactly the ways He desires.

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