



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Cost to Mentor	SPEAKER	Ps Low Kok Guan
THEME	Mentoring Series	DATE	15 and 16 June 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Before Jesus left the disciples, He gave them the Great Commission: to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19-20). The terms 'discipleship' and 'mentorship' are sometimes used interchangeably, but there is a subtle difference. Discipleship is the goal of the Great Commission, while mentorship, the act of helping others to grow in the Lord, is a method through which this goal can be achieved.

When one is being mentored, they can then learn how to be a good mentor to others by being FAST: faithful, available, submissive and teachable. We must also remember that we are to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily to follow Christ in this call to mentor others (Luke 9:23).

THE COST TO MENTOR

1. Deny Ourselves (give up something for the sake of others)

To 'deny ourselves' means to sacrifice something for the benefit of others. These sacrifices can include our wants, needs and possessions. In Jesus' case, He sacrificed the prestige of being the Son of God to come to us in the form of a helpless baby. He was tempted in the desert by Satan, but did not use God's power to help Himself, using it to help others instead. By sacrificing Himself on the cross, He denied His rights for our sake.

Paul described this in Philippians 2:4-8 - we should look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Some examples of what we may sacrifice for the good of others include:

- a. Time - it takes time to mentor others and to help them to grow;
- b. Treasures - we may need to bless others in need of money or material goods;
- c. Talents - we need to use what God has given us e.g. a gift for teaching or playing a musical instrument.

We give as the Lord leads, with faith that the cost to mentor will be worth it in the end.

2. Take up the cross daily (give in to God)

Figuratively, the 'cross' in Luke 9:23 refers to the circumstances, issues and challenges that we face in our lives.

In the past, people who were to be crucified had to carry their own cross to the place of execution. It was an act that was done unwillingly. Even Jesus mentioned that He did it because He was giving in to the will of God.

The 'cross' in our lives has to be taken up daily—each day brings with it new challenges, not just for ourselves, but also for the people we mentor. With that in mind, we need to learn to give in to God and pay the price of journeying with our mentees.

3. Follow Jesus

In the original Greek version of Luke 9:23, the words the author used imply that while it is important that disciples deny themselves and take up the cross daily, it is more important that they make sure that they are following Jesus. The Greek text moreover also implies that disciples are to follow alongside (and not behind) Him, drawing closer to Him along their journey.

Some of us may feel unprepared to be a mentor while others have difficulty finding one. Ps Kok Guan suggested that as we pray and ask the Lord to speak to us, we can seek different challenges and find ways to grow our skills. When the time is right, we will be ready to mentor others.

Ps Kok Guan also suggested five areas that we can mentor others in: Ministry, Marketplace, Money, Marriage (Parenting) and Maturity.

CONCLUSION

Ps Kok Guan shared a quote by Howard Hendriks: 'You teach what you know, but you reproduce what you are.' As disciples, we follow Jesus with the goal of becoming more and more like Him. We should help others to follow Jesus by using the time, talents and treasures that God has given us.

QUESTIONS

1. Mentoring others requires sacrifice.

- a) If you are a mentor, what have you given up in order to mentor others?
- b) If you have been or are being mentored, share how your mentor has inspired you.

2. Share instances in which you sacrificed something after hearing God's prompting. What did you gain or learn through this sacrifice? Is there anything you feel you need to do in order to 'give in to God' today?

3. How can you avail your time, treasure and talents to help others to follow Jesus? In what areas do you think you can mentor others in? Pray with your cell for direction from God on how you can mentor others well.