

Introduction:

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher" (**Luke 6:40**, ESV). In context, Jesus is pointing out if we pick a bad teacher, we won't be able to rise above it. When we follow the blind, we fall into the ditch with them. However, this principle also applies if we pick a good teacher. In fact, if we pick the Good Teacher, when we are fully trained, we will be just like Him. That is what discipleship is all about: being like Jesus. In fact, the term "Christian," got started because it means "little Christ." The second fundamental character trait we see in being little Christs is learning from God. Let's survey Jesus's life, seeing how He learned from God that we may discover how we disciples learn from God.

Discussion:

I. A disciple learns from God.

- A. In the introduction, I merely asserted Jesus learned from the Father. Before we look at how, let us see the evidence that the assertion is true.
- B. In **John 8:28**, Jesus said, "...I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me" (ESV). In **John 5:30**, He said, "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me"(ESV).
- C. Jesus is pretty straightforward. He learned from and was taught by the Father. To be more specific, He did only what He was certain was the Father's will based upon the Father's teaching. Think about how amazing this is. Jesus is fully God (**John 1:1**). He is divine. He has as much ability to determine what is right and what He should do as the Father does. But that isn't how He lives. Instead, He voluntarily surrenders His will to the Father's instruction. He only does what the Father teaches.
- D. Perhaps this concept of learning from the Father is a figure of speech when applied to Jesus. Or perhaps it is some aspect of the relationship between Father and Son that is beyond our comprehension when we consider the nature of the triune God. Either way, Jesus makes it clear. He learns from the Father. Not only that, He submits to the Father's teaching, only doing what He learns from the Father. If our Teacher behaves this way, how much more should we His disciples?

II. A disciple learns from the God's Scriptures.

- A. No doubt, as **John 17:5** demonstrates, Jesus was with the Father throughout eternity past. He has a relationship with the Father that goes beyond His existence and ministry in this world. Being one person in the divine trinity, He has a relationship and communication with the Father beyond anything we can understand or experience. However, even for all of that, Jesus went out of His way throughout His life to demonstrate that He was not living based upon a kind of communication with the Father that we cannot comprehend or experience. In fact, He demonstrates again and again that He is relying on the Scriptures the Father has revealed for all men.
- B. There is perhaps no more helpful demonstration of this than in the records of His temptation and testing in the wilderness following His baptism. In **Matthew 4:1-11**, the devil perpetrates three specific attacks against Jesus. There are so many things we can learn from this account. However, in this lesson, we need to notice one thing. How did Jesus defend against and overcome Satan's attacks? How did Jesus decide how He was going to live? He did not rely on special revelation from the Father that only He had because of their special relationship. He did not base His behavior on some secret relationship and communion with the Father. He anchored His behavior in the Scriptures God had revealed. He quoted **Deuteronomy 8:3** in the first temptation; **Deuteronomy 6:16** in the second, **Deuteronomy 6:13** in the third.
- C. If Jesus would learn this way from God the Father, how much more should we? In fact, what we learn for us is if our learning comes from anywhere other than God's revealed Word, our learning isn't coming from God at all. And a disciple learns from God. But this leaves us asking how a disciple learns from God and even from God's revealed Scripture. Our remaining points dig into how Jesus learned from the Father, showing us how a disciple learns from God as well.

III. A disciple learns from what God says.

- A. In **John 12:49-50**, Jesus said, “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me” (ESV). Doesn’t this just make sense? God teaches by saying things, by telling things directly. Sometimes He tells prohibitions, sometimes permissions, sometimes commands. He says things; disciples learn from what the Father directly and specifically says.
- B. According to **John 12:49-50**, Jesus learned from the Father by listening to the Father’s commands. If the Father commanded something or told Jesus to do something, He wasn’t making things up on His own. He wasn’t acting on His own authority. He was learning from the Father how to live.
- C. If Jesus, God the Son, learned from what the Father told Him, how much more do we learn from what the Father directly tells us. Further, notice, what He tells us is life. Only what God teaches us is life. If we go of on our own, doing what we want or what some men have made up, we will have death.

IV. A disciples learns from what God shows.

- A. In **John 5:19-20**, Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing” (ESV). Again, doesn’t this just make sense? I know it sounds odd for us to quantify this as a method of learning because it is just so natural to us. But here it is. Jesus didn’t just do whatever He pleased. He only did what He learned from the Father. Sometimes He learned from what the Father directly told Him, but He also learned by what the Father demonstrated to Him or showed Him. He learned from good, positive, approved exemplary action. This makes me think of learning in general. When I was in college, I got a job as a trim carpenter. My boss would sometimes teach me by telling me things. But most of the time, he taught me by showing me how to do it and then saying, “Do it like that.”
- B. When Jesus learned from what the Father showed Him, He wasn’t going off on His own. He wasn’t acting from His own authority. He was learning from the Father and doing what the Father had authorized. How much more should we not only see what the Father directly tells us, but also scour the Scripture to see what the Father has shown us, seeing the approved examples the Father has established for us.

V. A disciple learns from what God implies.

- A. In **John 7:24**, Jesus said, “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment” (ESV). This was the end of a long defense. It hearkens back to **John 5:1-17**, where Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. The Jews believed Jesus was just doing whatever He wanted. They didn’t believe He had learned that from God. Why did Jesus heal on the Sabbath then? He said it was because He judged with a right judgment. On **John 7:17**, He explained that what He was doing was not on His own authority, but based on the Father’s. But how did He determine what was authorized by the Father? How did He decide what was the Father’s will?
- B. According **John 7:24**, He did so based on using right judgment and not simply appearances. That is, He didn’t do things based simply on whether it felt right or appeared right but based on using sound, logical, necessary judgments. In **John 7:21-23**, Jesus explained His sound, logical, and necessary judgment. Moses had commanded circumcision (cf. **Leviticus 12:3**). If the eighth day fell on a Sabbath, the Jews would obey the Law of Moses on circumcision. Jesus said this demonstrated that healing on the Sabbath was equally authorized. The Law did not command healing on the Sabbath. The Law did not provide an example of healing on the Sabbath. However, as the Law taught that blessing someone on the Sabbath by removing part of their body was authorized on the Sabbath, by logical judgment and implication it was also teaching Jesus could bless someone by making his body whole on the Sabbath.
- C. In other words, Jesus was able to learn from the Father not only by what He directly told Him or by what He expressly showed Him. Jesus was able to learn from the Father sound principles by working through reasonable, logical judgment to understand what the Father implied by what He directly said and showed. When Jesus acted based on this teaching, He was not acting based on His own authority, but on the Father’s. If Jesus learned in this way, how much more can we? How much more should we?

Conclusion:

Jesus learned from God. If we will be His disciples, we too must learn from God. But perhaps, the most significant part of this is why. Jesus provides the profound reason why disciples learn from the Father and only act based on what we learn from the Father in **John 7:17-18**. The reason? Because the disciple’s job is to glorify or honor God. Isn’t that exactly what we have already learned? A disciple honors God. If we disciples will honor God, we must learn from Him. If what we do comes from what we decide on our own or from what someone else has just made up, we aren’t honoring God. Disciples honor God. Disciples learn from God. How are you doing with that?