

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 4)

The “Tyrannus” paradigm is not entirely different from Jesus’ model for discipling. It is an expanded version that brings disciples under the authority of Jesus through a mentor. The training is still radical, because Jesus still seeks radicals. Jesus’ emphasis on humility, love, and the Holy Spirit are present in this model also. The words of Jesus remain the authority for all discipling. Pastors and teachers are equippers for radical disciples. The idea is not to reach maturity and then serve, but to mature as we serve. Growth doesn’t happen in a vacuum. Ministry is not taught; it is caught. Disciples learn best under supervised serving. The Tyrannus paradigm creates an atmosphere for following Jesus by following mature leaders who follow Jesus. Jesus said, “Follow me.” The author of Hebrews said, “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Hebrews 13:7). The twelve apostles were taught directly by Jesus for three years, and then they were instructed to wait for the Holy Spirit. Once the Spirit came, the church age began. Discipleship begins with the Spirit. That was import to Paul’s work at Ephesus. The first “disciples” he met in Ephesus knew nothing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1). It wasn’t until they were baptized in the Sprit that Paul could disciple them according to truth. After two years of Paul’s teaching at the school of Tyrannus “all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord.” That would never have happened if Paul had limited himself to Jesus’ method of making disciples. The Tyrannus school of discipleship ended up as Paul’s legacy to the church for the entire church age. They Tyrannus method is the model for today.