



Biblical Mentors

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According to Homer's *Odyssey*, when King Odysseus went off to fight in the Trojan War, he left his son Telemachus in the hands of a wise old man named Mentor. Mentor was charged with the task of teaching the young man wisdom.

More than 2,000 years after Homer, a French scholar and theologian by the name of François Fénelon adapted the story of Telemachus in a novel titled *Télémaque*. In it he enlarged the character of Mentor. The word *mentor* soon came to mean "a wise and responsible tutor"—an experienced person that advises, guides, teaches, inspires, challenges, corrects, and serves as a model.

No matter whom you are or where you are at on your walk with Jesus, a mentor is a good friend to have along the way. Some choose to have an earthly mentor but you can also find many mentors in the Bible to use. In fact there are many references to mentors throughout the scriptures.

We see in 2 Tim 2:1-2, where mentoring is described, "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others"

Here are a few examples of mentors:

- Timothy had Paul
- Mark had Barnabas
- Moses had Jethro
- Joshua had Moses
- Elisha had Elijah
- Samuel had Saul
- King Jehoash had Elisha
- Nebuchadnezzar had Daniel
- Ester had Mordecai
- The Apostles had Jesus
- Titus had Paul

Just to mention a few.

So what can you learn from someone who is not among us? A lot! You can spend time learning from what they learned and what they taught to others. When you have a question or a problem, read what they did or would have you do. Not only can it help you, it will also encourage you to spend more time in God's Word, which is the best place to be. No matter the question, God's Word has the answer.

As for me, my Biblical Mentor is Moses. Though Jesus seems to be the best choice, He is my Savior, Redeemer, Teacher, Role Model ... the list is endless, so I chose someone else for my mentor. I selected Moses because, though he had made many mistakes in his life, God chose to use him. And when he was chosen, he served faithfully no matter the task. To spend 40 years in the desert at God's command and doing it without question; this is serving faithfully. So spend some time in God's Word and find who Jesus guides you to as your mentor.

Pastor Scott