

Learning by Watching

Jeremiah 35:1-19



Learning by Watching

- People learn by a variety of means: observing, hearing, reading
- People differ in the means that are the most effective for them
- Christianity is a teaching religion; as a matter of fact, God has used teaching in every Dispensation to communicate His will



Learning by Watching

- Patriarcal
 - Gen. 18:19 - “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”



Learning by Watching

- Mosaic

- Deut. 6:6-9 - “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”



Learning by Watching

- Christian

- Matt. 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



Learning by Watching

- Elders and evangelists must understand that people learn best by hearing the word of God and then by observing how other Christians apply it.
 - Phil. 3:17 - “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”
 - Titus 2:7-8 - “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, & sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”



Learning by Watching

- Christians must be above reproach in their examples
 - 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”
 - Heb. 13:7 - “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.”
 - 1Tim. 3:2, 7 - “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior... 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach...”



The Responsibility Of The One Being Observed

- We do not want others to be misled by our mistakes
 - Psalm 69:5-6 - “O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You. 6 Let not those who wait for You, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed because of me; Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.”



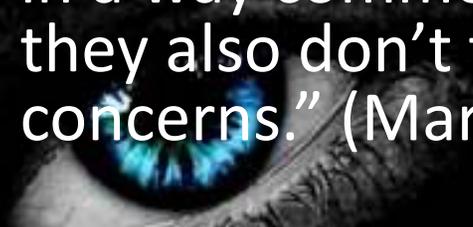
The Responsibility Of The One Being Observed

- 1Cor. 10:24, 31-33 - “Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being... 31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”



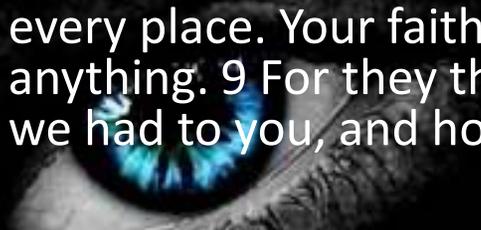
The Responsibility Of The One Being Observed

- In a survey on why teenagers aren't following their parent's faith, the most common reason given is that adults do not live lives consistent with what they say they believe.
- "The question is, what kind of a godly image their parents project. For to these teenagers their fathers and mothers are the lenses through which they see God. Not only do grown-ups fail to conduct their lives in a way commensurate with their stated convictions, they also don't talk with their children about spiritual concerns." (Mark Yaconelli, 2002)



The Responsibility Of The One Being Observed

- Give others the best possible opportunity to learn what is good by constantly setting a good example whether others are watching or not
 - 1Thes. 1:2-9 - “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols...”



The Responsibility Of The One Observing

- While there will be judgment on those who harm the faith of others, this does not absolve the observer of responsibility for following a poor example. We cannot blame others for our own poor choices
 - Heb. 4:11 - “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”
 - Jude 7 - “As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”



The Responsibility Of The One Observing

- 1Cor. 10:6-12 - “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”



The Responsibility Of The One Observing

- This mandates that we know the difference between right and wrong and judge each example to determine if it is worthy of following.
 - Heb. 5:14 - “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”



The Responsibility Of The One Observing

- 2Chron. 27:1-2 - “Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. 2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.”



Learning by Watching

- “A father teaches his children that the battle is not determined by the enemy that stands against them, but by the God Who lives within them. And that lesson can only be driven home as they watch their father stand before them, while God stands within their father.” (Craig Lounsbrough)
- “If you as parents cut corners, your children will too. If you lie, they will too. If you spend all your money on yourselves and give no portion of it for churches, charities, colleges, and civic causes, your children won't either. And if parents snicker at racial and gender jokes, another generation will pass on the poison adults still have not had the courage to snuff out.” (Marian Edelman)
- “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1Cor. 11:1).

