

Spiritual Reality Shows: The Apprentice

2 Timothy 1:3-5; 13-2:3

1. Show's premise: to become Donald Trump's apprentice; weekly climax? *You're Fired!*
2. What is an apprentice? A person being taught a trade, usually by spending extended periods of time in observation, etc.

I. Paul's early experience with apprenticeship

- A. Saul was *apprenticed* by Barnabas (Acts 9:26-30)
 1. Worked with Barnabas (Acts 11:25-26)
 2. Went with Barnabas and John Mark (Acts 13:2-5 [John Mark? 12:25; 15:36])
- B. 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-41)
 1. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark
 2. Paul did not think it wise (parted ways? Why? Wholly unexceptional... Acts 13:13)
- C. Note: Nearing the end of his life
 1. He's been deserted by almost all (2 Tim 1:15; 4:9-10)
 2. Get Mark for he is helpful to me *in my ministry* ([what was Paul's "trade"?] 2 Timothy 4:11)

II. Paul's "second chance" at mentoring an apprentice

- A. When Paul met Timothy (Acts 16:1-5)
 1. Paul worked *and traveled* Timothy ("father was a Greek" compare 2 Tim. 1:3-5)
 2. Timothy was his spiritual son (Philippians 2:19-23)
- B. Learning to not give up on people
 1. Timothy needed support and instruction (1 Tim 4:11-16)
 2. Timothy needed to be challenged (2 Timothy 1:6-8)
- C. Paul now realizes the power of perseverance

III. A Spiritual Father's words of encouragement & concern

- A. I'm always praying for you (2 Timothy 1:3-5)
 1. Remember your faith (sincere faith—someone falls, lets down, NOT sincere...)
 2. Children need mothers and fathers who are faithful (Timothy? Paul, spiritual father)
- B. Men of faith pass on the challenge (Wild at Heart—Society of really nice guys? Dangerous)
- C. Spiritual Fathers verbalize (and demonstrate) their faith (2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2:2-3)

Thank God for spiritual fathers who leave a permanent mark on the lives of their children!