

SWISS ARMY KNIFE

Week 1

SHARE

What is your best method for learning something?

SEEK

Miyagi, Manning, and Mimetics

We learn in action. Christian practices teach us. Ken Boa calls it “indirect preparedness.” In other words, whether we realize it or not, experiences help form our understanding of what originally may have started as just head knowledge. This is why an integrated learning is so important. Yes, it is important to learn things for the sake of filling the head, but never separate from action that can help shape those ideas. The same can be said the other way ‘round: our actions can be informed by learning with our minds.

The Sermon on the Mount was directed towards apprentices, those eager to take on the life of Jesus. The process to apprenticeship is more than a series of lectures. It also includes a peculiar type of training, within community. The old rabbinic saying, “May you be covered in the dust of your Rabbi” is telling. It signified that whatever the Rabbi did, the apprentices should mimic so that a whole-bodied learning might happen. Likewise in the church, we learn the ways of Jesus together.

This type of apprenticeship is like how Miyagi trained Daniel-son karate through household chores. Or it's like Peyton Manning soaking footballs and throwing passes each practice in order to prepare for rainy games. It certainly paid off in Super Bowl XLI! Paul's main method of discipleship was to have people “try on” his way of life, to learn in motion. Is it any wonder that the Greek name for Matthew, “Matthaios” (pronounced ma-thigh-os), has startled scholars as it may be a play on the word for “Learner/Apprentice,” “Matthetes” (pronounced ma-thay-tays)?

SEE

MIYAGI, MANNING, AND MIMETICS

“WE LEARN IN ACTION.” HOW ABOUT YOU? DO YOU LEARN BETTER BY ABSORBING HEAD KNOWLEDGE AND THEN ACTING ON THAT KNOWLEDGE? OR DO YOU LEARN BETTER BY ACTION FIRST, AND THEN ABSORBING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WHAT YOU DID?

BASED ON YOUR ANSWER TO THE ABOVE QUESTION, HOW MIGHT THIS HELP YOU IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, BIBLE STUDY, AND/OR APPLICATION?

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING IN A COMMUNITY RATHER THAN IN SOLITUDE? USE SCRIPTURE TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A MIXTURE OF WORSHIP, REFLECTION, AND ACTION. OF THOSE THREE, WHICH ONE DO YOU DO REALLY WELL? WHICH ONE COULD BE PRACTICED MORE? WHAT CAN YOU DO THIS WEEK TO PRACTICE ONE OR ALL OF THESE?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another