

Apprentices Learn from the Master

To be faithful, fruitful, disciples, or apprentices, of Jesus, we need to keep our eyes on Him, copy what He does, and obey His commands.

John 15: 13-15 - You are my friends if you do what I command. v. 14

Luke 6: 46-49 - "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? v.46

1 John 2: 3-6 - The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. v.4

Matthew 4: 18-22 - "Come, follow me," Jesus said. v.19

Matthew 23: 8-12 - "...you have only one Master..." v.8

Props: 4 objects made from the same material, eg. wood or metal or glass, 2 look very similar, one wildly different, and one is in a raw state and hasn't been crafted at all. We are using 2 wooden cat bookends, a wooden biplane, and a block of wood.

The Master Craftsman is on stage stood by a table where the finished article (wooden cat bookend) is sat on display. The apprentices walk on to stage, wearing overalls with their creations hidden from sight, to be unveiled in turn. Have a saw and plane or other tools on show to give impression of workshop.

Master: As you all know, this is what we've been aiming to make in today's workshop. I am fully confident that as long as you've kept your eyes on me, copied what I've been doing and followed my instructions, then you will have produced something very similar. Tony, would you like to start by showing me your work?

Tony: Um... to be honest, I found the whole project a bit...overwhelming. I mean, I know I could never produce something as good as that *[pointing at cat bookend]*

Master: Well, I don't expect perfection at this stage, just you best effort. Come on, let's see what you've done...

[Tony brings out from behind the screen an untouched block of wood]

Master: *[sighs]* I'm very disappointed, you haven't even tried!

Tony: Yeah, but, what's the point? What's the point of even starting when you know you're going to fail?

Master: The point is that with my help, if you apply yourself, you can achieve more than you ever thought possible. And each time you try, you learn more, and become more like me. I hope you've done better *[addressing next apprentice]*...

Apprentice 2: Well, yes....and, no

Master: What does that mean? You have started it haven't you?

Apprentice 2: Yes, of course! Started and finished! It's just that, now I look again at yours and what the end product is supposed to look like, I'm not confident mine matches up

Master: In what way?

Apprentice 2: Er...it's just the overall impression that I'm getting really...

Master: Show me what you've made then we can discuss it

[Apprentice 2 brings out wooden biplane from behind the screen]

Master: How on earth did you end up with that from that??! *[pointing from biplane to cat bookend]*

Apprentice 2: Well..um...I started with the piece of wood, and I was watching what you were doing, and then I guess at some point I got distracted...

Master: You think?

Apprentice 2: Yes I do. And I think maybe I heard somebody else giving instructions, and it sounded more interesting than what you were talking about, and I kind of got drawn in....and....and... Well, at least I made something!

Master: Yes, you've made something alright, but it doesn't in the least resemble what I asked you to make. Part of the learning process is being disciplined enough to follow instructions and not get sidetracked. That *[pointing to biplane]* is not fit for purpose. It's not what I wanted you to make. *[turning to third apprentice]* Andy, what have you done?

Andy: I really did try my hardest...

Master: I wish you apprentices would stop starting your explanations with an apology, it's making me nervous

Andy: I was listening, honestly, and I tried to copy everything just as you did it, but I'm not at your standard yet

Master: I don't expect you to be a Master Craftsman yet, but my hope is that you have been a faithful apprentice. Show me your finished article...

[Andy gets the other cat bookend from behind the screen, which is a very accurate copy, except, of course, it's the other way round]

Master: That's excellent work! You've nothing to apologise for. I can see you've paid careful attention to my words, followed my actions diligently, and not let yourself get distracted or led astray. You two *[aimed at Tony and Apprentice 2]* this is what I'm looking for, fruits of your labour that show me you were following me every step of the way.