

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

*Scriptural Guidance for the
Leadership Calling*

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Revelation – General and Special

- ▶ Man pursues “T” truth, finds “t”
- ▶ What to do with scientific discover? Philosophies of integration
- ▶ “Spoiling the Egyptians” – Larry Crabb
- ▶ Survey of Scripture today offers some content for “filter”

INTEGRATING LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Emerging principles more Jesus than Harvard
- ▶ Secular authors embracing Christian teaching
- ▶ Growing number of mainstream authors of faith
- ▶ Christian leaders:
 - ▶ Spirit Empowered – Moody
 - ▶ Scripturally guided
 - ▶ Seeks God's will
 - ▶ Moves people to God's agenda

CHRISTIANITY AND LEADERSHIP TODAY

Contemporary Worldly

- ▶ Driven by ambition
- ▶ Success is measured in man's currency
- ▶ Guided primarily by world's wisdom
- ▶ Often fulfilled by power and pride
- ▶ Even follower-focused strategies measured in worldly success

Christian Calling

- ▶ Lead with compassion & mercy
- ▶ Spirit guided
- ▶ Servant-like
- ▶ Informed by Scripture
- ▶ Success is in eternal treasures

CLASSIC LEADERSHIP VS. CHRISTIAN CALLING

- ▶ Calling
- ▶ Shepherd leadership metaphor
- ▶ Servant leadership
- ▶ Sermon on the Mount
- ▶ Spiritual practices
- ▶ Divine empowerment
- ▶ Leaders in Scripture

SCRIPTURE ON LEADERSHIP - AGENDA

Leadership is a calling – Not contrary to faith

Romans 13:1-7 –

- ▶ Authority from God
- ▶ Appointed to serve for good
- ▶ Ministers of God

John 19:11 – “You would have no authority ... unless it had been given you from above.

John 15:16 – Speaking to disciples: “I chose you and anointed you”

THE CALLING – THE GUILT OF LEADERSHIP

1 Timothy 3:1 – “If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.”

1 Samuel 13 – God sought man after own heart, sent Samuel to anoint David

Ephesians 4:11 – “He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, the teachers”

Moses, Gideon, Esther, Nehemiah: Called!

THE CALLING – MORE EXAMPLES

- ▶ Shepherd metaphor throughout Scripture:
 - ▶ Psalms
 - ▶ John 10
- ▶ Moses and David both shepherds
- ▶ Latin transliteration of shepherd = pastor
- ▶ Over 500 references to shepherds
- ▶ Contemporary society unfamiliar – Care, Compassion, Love & Sacrifice

THE SHEPHERD MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Three characteristics of shepherd – Guide, Provide, Protect
- ▶ Good shepherd is not hired hand, committed
- ▶ Guarded pen not allowing access to those meaning harm
- ▶ Sheep knew shepherd's voice
- ▶ Led to pasture, not drove
- ▶ Good shepherd is sacrificial – Jesus even to death

THE SHEPHERD MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Servant Leadership – “reintroduced” by Greenleaf in 1970
- ▶ Serve first – new approach to why lead
- ▶ Jesus models – John 13:5- Washing disciples’ feet
- ▶ Feeding crowds, even first reluctant miracle at the wedding.
- ▶ The cross – ultimate service
- ▶ Theory reflects leader practicing (Yukl):
 - ▶ Integrity
 - ▶ Altruism
 - ▶ Humility
 - ▶ Empathy
 - ▶ Personal growth
 - ▶ Fairness/Justice
 - ▶ Empowerment

SERVANT LEADERSHIP – THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

- ▶ Scriptural support:
 - ▶ Mark 9:35 “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all”
 - ▶ Philippians 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”
- ▶ John 21 lessons:
 - ▶ Jesus sought disciples, Peter
 - ▶ Met practical needs first serving the bread and fish
 - ▶ Ministered to Peter’s hurting heart – through reminder of relationship
 - ▶ Used imagery, echoes, reminders to reach Peter deeply
 - ▶ Clarified equity issues – like vineyard workers Matthew 20

SERVANT LEADERSHIP – THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

- ▶ Leadership guidance – as Jesus taught disciples in Matthew 5-7
- ▶ Radical - Turned Jewish leaders and Us upside down ...”You have heard it said, but I tell you ...”
- ▶ Leader lessons (Dan Lawson):
 - ▶ Settle accounts quickly
 - ▶ Keep a pure thought life
 - ▶ Respect marriage
 - ▶ Always tell truth, do not commit and not fulfill
 - ▶ Be peacemaker – “Don’t fight fair”
 - ▶ Love opponents (enemy).

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

- ▶ Examining ethical messages:
 - ▶ Anger is like murder – replace behavior, action with thought
 - ▶ Lust is as dangerous as adultery. Breaks the bonds of trust and closeness. Major issue for leaders
 - ▶ Be a peacemaker not pushover – but transforming power of grace is incredible
 - ▶ Love enemies – view competition with love, keeps behavior in check, heart in condition
- ▶ Only possible through God's provision, through the Spirit
- ▶ Winston's "Be a leader for God's sake"

ILLUSTRATIONS - SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Spiritual practices equip and prepare leaders

- ▶ Prayer (Matthew 26:39; John 17, James 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 2:1)
- ▶ Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16)
- ▶ Fellowship (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25)
- ▶ Meditation (listening to God) – Psalms (e.g., 145:5)
- ▶ Worship – Psalms (e.g., 66:4)
- ▶ Serve (Matthew 25:35-40)

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES – CONNECTING WITH THE CREATOR

- ▶ Jesus was always praying
 - ▶ Before choosing disciples - Luke 6:12
 - ▶ Mount of Olives before passion – Luke 22:39
 - ▶ Before Peter walked on water – Matthew 14:23
 - ▶ Very early, while dark, before preaching in Galilee – Mark 1:35
 - ▶ For disciples in John 17
- ▶ Renewed interest in research – scholars connect prayer with relationships, recovery, healing, workplace relations, morale, performance, coping, self-efficacy

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES – PRAYER

- ▶ Growing interest by researchers and practitioners
- ▶ Ethical and Moral failures rekindle
- ▶ Finding healthy connections – a wholeness
- ▶ Just completed research:
 - ▶ 124 participants
 - ▶ Spirituality → Engagement & Dimensions of Vigor, Dedication, Absorption
 - ▶ Spirituality: Daily Spiritual Experience Scale (DSES) [Underwood]
- ▶ Found Spirituality predicts Engagement, Vigor, Dedication, but NOT Absorption
- ▶ Much further work on Spirituality & Spiritual practices needed
- ▶ Why bother? Can inform workplace policies, advance the discussion

EXAMPLE OF RESEARCH - SPIRITUALITY

- ▶ Zechariah 4:6 – Spirit is source of true power
- ▶ Acts is great story of the power of the Spirit - Acts 1:8
- ▶ Acts 2 – Peter
- ▶ Steven in Acts 6:5, 7:55
- ▶ Philip in Acts 8:29 Spirit leads to Ethiopian Eunuch, transports away
- ▶ Spirit provides necessary gifts to leader (Gal 5:22-23)

DIVINE EMPOWERMENT

- ▶ Peter – certainly born with energy, shaped by teaching, fall/restoration, mostly empowered by the Spirit
- ▶ Paul – Powerful writer, led as Pharisee then for Jesus
- ▶ Joseph – Born to lead (dream), but shaped by adversity, strengthened faith
- ▶ Moses – Born into position but not charismatic

LEADERS IN SCRIPTURE

God uses Gifting and Shaping... ... Traits and Preparation

Question: Are you gifted to lead?

Answer: Are you called, then you will be!

CAN I LEAD?

- ▶ God equip us with everything good so people may know Him!
Isaiah 45:5-6, Hebrews 13:20-21
- ▶ Truly great leaders measure success not by world currency, but by fulfillment of calling - Matthew 6:19-21
- ▶ Resist temptation of power, ego – gain the world but lose soul!
Luke 9:25
- ▶ To become leader, must become servant of all! Matthew 20:27

LEAD GOD'S WAY

- ▶ We are effective only when we have Spirit active at work!
- ▶ Without God, when we leave our faith at home, we suffer fragmentation, we are not whole
- ▶ Glorify God ...
- ▶ *The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood ... John 7:18*

MAY THE SPIRIT LEAD LEADERS