

Leadership - Disciplemaking & Marks of a Disciple

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Dr. Michael Wilson's definition of leadership is provided in an attached handout. We will build this workshop around his definition.

I. Leadership starts with a “**trusted individual**”.

In the outstanding book by Kouzes and Posner entitled, *The Leadership Challenge* they state, “In every survey we conducted, honesty was selected more often than any other leadership characteristic; it consistently emerged as the single most important ingredient in the leader-constituent relationship. It is clear that if we are to willingly follow someone - we first want to assure ourselves that the person is worthy of our trust. Honesty above all else is a message that all leaders must take to heart.” p. 22. The leader's character goes beyond honesty to include values, beliefs and convictions.

Les T. Csorba wrote a book entitled *Trust: the One Thing that Makes or Breaks a Leader*. He says, “Our culture's legacy of leadership is in trouble, and the crisis is not one of competence but of character”.

Character is of utmost importance in the eyes of God for those He chooses to use. I Timothy 3:1-7 lists character qualities God wants in His leaders. What qualities do you see in the passage that God wants in our lives?

You become a trusted individual little by little, as you build your credibility over a period of time but it can be lost in a moment. Eccl. 10: 1

David lost so much because of his uncontrolled passion toward Bathsheba. I Kings 15:5

He paid a terrible price for that the rest of his life. What were some of the consequences of David's sin?

Solomon is a good example of one not lacking in ability but lacking in character.

Examples:

Saul is another example. Examples from his life:

- Examples from other Biblical Characters:

II. The trusted individual shares a “**compelling vision**.”

Proverbs 29: 18

“Leaders must know where they're going if they expect others to willingly join them on the journey.” (p. 23, Kouzes and Posner)

“Vision is the most descriptive term we've found for leaders' foresightedness. Consider the following:

- *Vision* derives from a word literally meaning, “see”. What better than vision to describe the capacity to be forward-looking and foresighted?
- Vision suggests a *future* orientation.
- A vision is an *image*, a picture of what could be.
- Vision connotes a standard of excellence, an *ideal*. It implies a choice of values.
- Vision also has the quality of *uniqueness*. It hints at what makes something special.”(pp. 94,95, Kouzes and Posner)

“Therefore, we define vision as *an ideal and unique image of the future*. When you are discovering a vision, you feel a strong inner sense of dissatisfaction with the way things are and you have an equally strong belief that things do not have to be this way. Visions are about possibilities, about desired futures. All new ventures begin with possibility thinking, not probability thinking. For example: The probability is that most new businesses will fail and if entrepreneurs accepted this view, they would never start a new business. Like entrepreneurs, leaders also assume that anything is possible. It's this belief that sustains them through the difficult times”. (pp. 96, 97 K and P) “Visions are statements of destination ... they are images in the mind. Intuition is the wellspring of vision. Intuition is the bringing together of knowledge and experience to produce new insights. The past gives us knowledge and experience from which to draw; the present gives us the chance to apply them” (pp. 100-107)

What makes a vision compelling? Woodrow Wilson said, “Absolute identity with one's cause is the first and great condition of successful leadership. Who are some examples of men of vision?

• Biblical examples: _____

• Examples in history: _____

• Examples you have seen: _____

III. A vision “**that brings people together in a collaborative way around a common goal that is mutually beneficial to all**”. People have to come to a place where the vision is theirs not just ours, but they own it. It is now a shared leadership.

• Biblical examples: _____

• Examples in history: _____

• Examples you have seen: _____

Application from the workshop:

Bibliography

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EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

“**Effective leadership** begins with a trusted individual who shares a compelling dream or vision that brings people together in a collaborative way, around a common goal, to bring about desired change that is mutually beneficial to all.” W. Michael Wilson

- **A credible trustworthy individual**
- **An appealing, compelling, motivating dream (vision)**
- **A collaborative process of shared leadership**
- **An agreed upon common goal**
- **Mutually beneficial to all**

Bibliography

Grace Grows Best in Winter - Margaret Clarkson -Eerdmans
Where is God When It Hurts? - Philip Yancy – Zondervan
Sweet Fire - Carrie Sydnor Coffman - Majesty Press
Don't Waste Your Sorrows - Paul Billheimer-Christian Literature Crusade

“I do not know David Brown, but have been quickly drawn to them from reading these daily, sometimes hourly, updates. What strikes me tonight is the clear desire to be the clay and to resist the great temptation to try to tell the Potter His business. - there is an acknowledgement that “God is taking us down this long, slow, deep road of change that should last a lifetime. There's a lot to learn, and we want the lessons to go so deep they can never be forgotten. “ As a dear friend going through a difficult time once said, “Lord, I pray that none of this suffering will be wasted.” It also strikes me once again that life can truly be changed and we can be changed in a moment in a twinkling of an eye. That is what the scripture says about Christ's return when we will all be changed. I believe that change will be so immediate because we will truly see the eternal and all things temporal will be gone ... all of our selfishness and pride will plummet into nothingness as we stand before God with nothing to clothe us except the righteousness of Christ. We will not have any shred of self-righteousness. Reading about this dreadful accident is tempered only by the fact that David is truly seeing life from the perspective of one who is changed and knows that apart from Him I can do nothing.” Karen King, Trinity Baptist Church, Norman, OK