

JULY 2020 - Mustard seed leadership

APPRECIATION

Matthew 13:31-32 (NLT)

31 Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."

BIG IDEA: Small kingdom adjustments can produce amazing fruit

- the kingdom is so powerful that even small truths can make significant differences
- So what are some small kingdom leadership truths we can work on?

Sergey Nikiforov, senior director of sales at Persistence Systems:

"I found that every day I had an opportunity to make a small difference. I could have coached someone better, I could have listened better, I could have been more positive toward people, I could have said "Thank you" more often, I could have . . . the list just went on and on.

At first, I was a bit overwhelmed with the discovery of how many opportunities I had in a single day to act as a better leader. But as I have gotten to put these ideas into practice, I have been pleasantly surprised by how much improvement I have been able to make by being more conscientious and intentional about acting as a leader"

The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations
James M. Kouzes

BIG IDEA: Small kingdom adjustments can produce amazing fruit

1. **Appreciation**

- Means taking the time to recognize the contribution of others and thank them for it.
- Groeschel *"Leaders need to stretch themselves to their limit of showing appreciation, and then double it!"*
- Don't you love that? We can never give too much genuine appreciation.

Listen to how the master shows appreciation:

Matthew 25:21 (NLT)

21 *“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’*

- a. Full of praise - words, smile, eyes, body language
- b. Specific in what he is appreciating - don’t be general, be specific.
- c. Show appreciation through rewarding - didn’t have to be big. Interesting that the reward of the master is greater responsibility. Show greater trust is the greatest reward.
- d. Culture of celebration - good leaders celebrate victories. Celebrate values lived out. Celebrate steps of progress.

Eg. Chatting to a pastor of a church I was visiting once who then excused himself by saying he needs to go and appreciate some people.

- That stuck with me!
- That’s intentional.

This week's leadership mustard seed: How much appreciation are you sowing?

- stretch yourself

Why? Because in the Kingdom, mustard seed adjustments can make a massive difference.