

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP107

7 Most powerful characteristics of a leader: **COURAGE**

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(Notes are available to download. Encourage you to use this as a tool with your leadership team. Please consider sharing with other leaders to help them grow)

INTRODUCTION: These 7 Characteristics are a summary of the lessons I've learnt and the convictions I have come to over the past 30 years of leadership growth.

COURAGE

One of the quotes about leadership that I tend to use the most is this one: "*Leadership is the art of disguising terror*"

One of the greatest challenges that holds people back from doing great things is fear. And leaders are called to do great things.

Craig Groechel said this: “*The pathway to your greatest breakthrough is straight through your greatest fear.*”

Fear is what holds people back and leaders are called not only to overcome their own fears but then help the people they lead to overcome theirs.

Examples of leaders as they faced the doorway of fear:

1. Moses

When God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt he was afraid and tried to get out of his calling. He used excuses to hide behind:

- He felt that having no leadership title was a valid excuse
- He felt that not knowing God enough was a valid excuse
- He felt that his lack of authority or reputation was a valid excuse
- He felt that his lack of speaking skill and ability was a valid excuse
- He felt that his lack of confidence was a valid excuse

Exodus 4:13-14 (NIV) ¹³ But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send it to someone else.” ¹⁴ Then the LORD’S anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you.

God had given Moses promises and confirmations and still he was afraid. God was angry because Moses was bowing his knee to fear even more than God.

1. Joshua

Joshua took over from Moses and was called to lead the Israelites into their Promised Land against multiple armies with giants and fortified cities.

Joshua had the faith to face the giants. His fears might have been in comparing himself to Moses who was such a powerful leader and seeing the difficulties that Moses faced from the people

Listen to what God said:

Joshua 1:9 (NIV) ⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Notice how this is a command from God. God commands Joshua to not be afraid or discouraged. This means that giving in to fear is a sin! Which means if fear is holding us back we need to repent.

Remember that fear comes as a temptation. Every leader will experience the temptation of fear - that's normal. But whether you allow that fear to take a hold of you and begin to control you is the issue.

Leaders need to be courageous and overcome fear.

1. Gideon

For Gideon, his poor self esteem or personal identity issues were the root of his fears.

- He experienced self pity - a victim mentality that all the hardships the people faced were God's fault and not their own
- He literally saw himself as the youngest member of the least family of the smallest tribe. Talk about an inferiority complex.

See how God challenged him:

Judges 6:12 (NIV) ¹² *When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."*

Judges 6:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ *The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"*

CHALLENGE:

All leaders will face fears. This is normal. It is how we respond to these fears that determines our effectiveness as a leader.

For some:

1. Excuses are used to disguise fear and hold you back.
2. Comparison and past bad experience becomes the root of fears
3. Low self esteem, poor identity and low confidence in God is the root of fear.

It is important to recognise where your fears come from so that you will be empowered to overcome them.

What is even more important to note is how God deals with the fear of his leaders:

Joshua 1:9 (NIV) ⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*”

Judges 6:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ *The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”*

It is this revelation, that God is with us, that is the strength and courage to overcome fear.

It is critical that we as leaders know Jesus as Immanuelle “*God with us*”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

QUESTIONS:

1. Can you identify any excuses that you might have been hiding fears behind?
2. Do you ever find comparison to other leaders, leads to fears of inadequacy that hold you back?

3. Do you struggle with issues of low self esteem or poor identity that keep you from putting more confidence in God?

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>