

# MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP108

## 7 Most powerful characteristics of a leader: **VISIONARY**

### 7 Most powerful characteristics of a leader

(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.

## VISIONARY

Start with another John Maxwell quote "*The leader needs to see more and see before*"

### That's what leadership is all about

- It is about seeing a vision of a preferred future so that you can lead people into it
- And seeing it before others - leaders go first!

## One of the primary labels for church leaders is 'overseers'

- This carries the idea of seeing things from above to direct and lead

## Visionary in the Kingdom is of course different to visionary in the world

- The people we lead don't need **our** vision
- They need **God's** vision - God's purposes and plans revealed

*Proverbs 29:18 (NIV) "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint"*

## That word 'revelation' means to 'look' or 'see'

- To see what God sees

Notice how 'people casting off restraint' is linked to a lack of prophetic vision

**ILLUST:** Often had people complain about not having self discipline

- Challenge them that the real issue is not self discipline but vision for your life
- **Eg.** Professional sports people with a passion to be world number 1 will be up before the sun to train
- Vision brings discipline. Lack of vision brings loss of discipline.

## 4 STAGES OF VISION DEVELOPMENT

1. God reveals but people DON'T see it

Jesus revealed God's vision for his church which was a fulfillment of what had always been promised:

**Matthew 28:18-19 (NIV)** “<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ....**”

NATIONS - ethnos, n. - Gentile, pagan; (foreign) nation

**The problem was that the apostles didn't catch the significance of what had just been revealed**

- They were overwhelmed
- They were confused
- They missed the BIGNESS of what Jesus had just said.

THEY DIDN'T GET IT

### 1. God reveals but people CAN'T see it

Even though Jesus had given the disciples the Great Commission they couldn't see the extent of it - so they stayed in Jerusalem and the church remained Gentile free

**Acts 10:11-15 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him,

*“Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”<sup>14</sup> “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”*

And so God used this vision and then sent Peter to preach to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit falls upon them. Peter has to convince the other apostles and then finally:

**Acts 11:17-18 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> *So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?”<sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”*

**It took this powerful prophetic vision and demonstration from God to get His vision to break into the hearts of the apostles.**

### **What stops us receiving God's vision?**

- Hardness of heart that resists change
- Too small in our thinking
- Too small in our ability to trust God's power

#### **1. God reveals but people WON'T see it**

So now the revelation of God's vision has come to the church. They have heard the amazing stories of how the Gospel works so powerfully on Gentiles. But ...

**Acts 11:19 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, **spreading the word only among Jews.**

**Because of their own limitations the people would not receive God's vision**

- To stuck in our own traditions
- To limited by our past prejudices
- To afraid of change

1. **God reveals and people DO SEE**

**Acts 11:20-21 (NIV)** <sup>20</sup> Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Here the people embraced the Great Commission for the FIRST TIME

- And saw the powerful hand of God at work

## **CHALLENGE:**

**What stage of God's vision are you walking in?**

1. God is trying to reveal his vision and plans to you but you DON'T realize it.
2. You have a sense of God's vision but you CAN'T grasp the BIGNESS of it. Your own limitations are shrinking it.

3. God has put His sense of vision into your heart but you WON'T grasp it. You have a sense of his vision but it scares you and so you won't embrace it.
4. God has revealed parts of His vision and you are WALKING in it and seeing God at work in and through you.

## QUESTIONS:

1. From the four stages above, which one do you identify with the most and why?
2. What limitations - fear, laziness, small thinking, doubts etc. - might be limiting you from receiving or walking in God's vision for your life or organization?
3. Can you write down what you believe God's vision is for your life and / or organization?

For more notes visit:

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