

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP110

THE LEADERSHIP STYLE OF JAMES: **He lead with Humility**

The Leadership style of James

INTRO: Love that the Bible exposes us to a variety of different leadership styles but with consistent leadership values

PERSONAL: Found myself comparing my leadership bias to that of the extroverted, self confident, sit-on-the-front-row team members, and feeling second best

- then realized that God can use a variety of leadership styles
- **So styles are different but leadership values are the same**

Want to study the leadership style of James and **how he expressed** some of the leadership values we have studied before

The Leadership Style of James

1. He led with HUMILITY

And this humility was expressed in a very practical way.

Here is how he introduces himself:

James 1:1 (NIV) *1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,*

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

This is the blood brother of Jesus and senior pastor of the Jerusalem church

- Notice that there is no title of Apostle, Senior Pastor or Brother of Jesus
- In fact no titles at all - not even “Servant of God James” - but rather “*James, a servant of God*”

You see titles and positions exult the leader above the people they lead

- the humble leader **wants to close the gap**
- So take a look at how he speaks to the people

Example from just a few verses:

James 5:7 (NIV) *“Be patient, then, **brothers and sisters** ...”*

James 5:9 (NIV) *“Don’t grumble against one another, **brothers and sisters** ...”*

James 5:10 (NIV) *“**Brothers and sisters**, as an example of patience ...”*

James 5:12 (NIV) *“Above all, **my brothers and sisters**, do not swear ...”*

James closed the gap by constantly referring to the people as “*brothers and sisters*”

- 13 times in 5 chapters!
- He didn't refer to Jesus as his brother
- He spoke to the people as his brothers and sisters

Eg. Had a pastor blame the people for his big title and seat on the stage

- "They want to show respect by giving me these exalted titles and positions"
- James fought against this and expressed humility by **intentionally** closing the gap between himself and the people he was leading and not allowing it to grow

WHY

James was a leader of **great wisdom**, something we will study more in the next few episodes.

- And one of the conclusions that his wisdom brought him to is expressed here:

James 3:13 (NIV) ¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, **by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.***

BIG IDEA: The sign of true wisdom is in fact humility.

Here is why:

After seeing Jesus' humility and seeing his death, resurrection and ascension first hand he had come to a powerful conviction:

James 4:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

This was not just a nice quote but a practical leadership value James lived by.

- He was convinced that when we lead with humility and not self promotion, God will promote.

BIG IDEA: God promotes genuinely humble leaders

Why genuine?

- False humility is another form of pride “I’m not really that good. I’m not worthy of the praise” - the focus is still me
- Insecurity can sound like humility “I could never be the one to do this” - focus is still me
- Fear can masquerade as humility “No, that is too big for me to step into” - focus is still me

Humility is shifting the focus entirely onto the Lord

- James was convinced that God’s grace flows towards humility and against pride
- In fact the place of genuine humility becomes a weapon against the enemy

James 4:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”* ⁷ *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

It was this radical belief in the power of humility that anchored his leadership

BIG IDEA: God’s grace and favor flow towards the humble leader

CHALLENGE:

Have you yet come to the revelation of how powerful humility is?

- if not then ask God to give you this revelation
- Without this revelation your fleshly nature will try and self exult

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the titles you have heard church leaders called by?
2. Why do you think people like to call their leaders by titles?
3. How should a leader respond when people try to exult them through title or privilege?

Next episode: He led with COURAGE

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