



The Leadership style of James

(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 are the Leadership styles of James.

1. He led with HUMILITY
2. He led with COURAGE
3. **He led with TRUTH**

We saw last episode that James was courageous in speaking out and challenging people.

Today's lesson follows closely - as a leader, James used the truth of God's Word to prod and at times pierce hearts to get people moving.

Take a listen to a few examples:

James 1:22 (NIV)²² *Do not merely listen to the word, and so **deceive** yourselves. Do what it says.*

James 1:26 (NIV)²⁶ *Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues **deceive** themselves, and their religion is worthless.*

Deception speaks about blind spots - and we all have them.

- James was willing to confront people with truth to expose their blind spots to get them going.

James 1:13-14 (NIV)¹³ *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.*

James used truth here to smash excuses and an unwillingness to take responsibility

- so many people are trapped in a victim mentality
- But if you don't take responsibility then you're not able to respond

James 4:1 (NIV)¹ *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

BIG IDEA: James was a leader who used TRUTH as a powerful leadership tool.

Here is why:

John 8:31-32 (NIV) ³¹ *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.* ³² *Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”*

As kingdom leaders our job is to lead people into greater freedom

- Out of darkness, out of bondage, out of sin
- Into God’s purposes and plans for them
- **And it is TRUTH that sets free, not FEELINGS**

Making people ‘FEEL’ better is not good enough

- As a leader we can encourage, comfort and love people
- But that will not set them free
- It is truth applied to their lives that brings freedom
- Great kingdom leaders know that and so will not back down from using truth to challenge, confront and help grow

PERSONAL: This is a very important leadership lesson for me personally

- I like to make people ‘feel’ better
- And I don’t like to hurt their feelings
- So I love to encourage and inspire and see people walk away with a smile and feeling good
- But feeling good for a while doesn’t take the place of walking into the freedom of truth

Eg. Kate my wife, has had to challenge me before

- Doing my best to rebuke someone but all I'm doing is encouraging them
- *"Time to hit the with some truth, honey"*

On the flip side:

Eg. I have also been to churches where there is always a crisis with people leaving the church and the root is too much truth!

- The pastor was constantly challenging everyone with so much truth that it came across as critical and judgemental
- Truth without love and encouragement can be damaging!

Always remember Jesus the perfect model:

John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The glory is the perfect combination of 100% grace AND 100% truth

- To grow my leadership I need to grow the truth side
- Grace is so important because it empowers and builds up
- But truth it critical because it sets free
- Glorious leadership is to do both

QUESTIONS:

1. Are you more of a GRACE person or TRUTH person?
2. How can you better use truth as a tool in your leadership?

3. Think of one or two of your team members now. What truth do they need to hear that will free them from a blind spot and help them grow? How can you best lead them into that truth?

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