

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP114

THE LEADERSHIP STYLE OF JAMES: He lead with an understanding of the prize of leadership.

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)

1. He led with HUMILITY
2. He led with COURAGE
3. He led with TRUTH
4. He led with ACTON
5. He led with an understanding of the PRICE of leadership

James 3:1-2 (NIV) ¹ *Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.* ² *We all stumble in many ways.*“

This scripture has always intrigued and concerned me:

1. Is it God who judges those who teach more strictly - in which case we as teachers and leaders need an even greater sense of the fear of God and dependence on Jesus!

2. Or is it the people we lead who judge teachers, preachers and church leaders more strictly - holding them to the highest standard and quick to criticize when we fall short.
3. Or is it the world - who rightfully demand church leaders 'practice what they preach' and then publicize the scandal if they fall.

Or maybe it is all three!

The point is that there is a cost to being a kingdom leader.

ILLUST: Monday is my day off. Usually exhausted after a busy Sunday and wanting to just unwind. Often the tiredness leads to a bit of grumpiness.

- Also don't like shopping but my chore is to do the weekly grocery shopping on a Monday
- Waiting at the cashier and everything is taking longer than it should
- Wrong prices, faulty equipment, extra demands ... I'm getting more and more frustrated.
- Eventually my turn and the cashier lady gets it wrong, messes up the specials and delays everything waiting for a supervisor.
- I'm now boiling over and just want to leave.
- As I'm frustratedly grabbing my shopping bags and walking out in a huff she smiles and says "*Bye Pastor, see you on Sunday*"

BIG IDEA: There is no 'day off' as a Kingdom leader!

Part of the price of leadership is letting go of some of the 'privileges' of non leadership. Here are some examples:

1. There is no day off from good character - people watch and expect you to model good character at all times.
2. We don't get to be moody - people expect leaders to always be full of joy and encouragement.
3. We don't get to focus on ourselves - people need leaders who focus on them. They don't want you to talk about your struggles, they need you to listen to theirs.
4. We don't get to be weak and needy. People need their leaders to be strong in the Lord and his mighty power.

Does that mean that leaders are immune from bad days, struggles and weakness - of course not.

– But part of the price of leadership is learning to take responsibility for ministering to the Lord and yourself so that you are ready to minister to his people.

Example of King David and the price of leadership:

1. Paying the price of strength

1 Samuel 30:6 (NIV) ⁶ *David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.*

Despite his own personal loss he had to be strong for the people. Leaders need to be able to minister to themselves and draw their strength from God.

- Do leaders need encouragement and support from friends? Of course. But the way we lead ourselves and stay strong in the Lord is part of our leadership journey.

2. Paying the price of sin

2 Samuel 12:12-13 (NIV) ¹² *You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.”* ¹³ *Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.*

His private sin had major public consequences. As leaders who carry authority - the consequences of sin impact not just ourselves but the people we lead as well.

- Will leaders sin? Of course. But the way we overcome temptation and deal with sin is part of our leadership journey.

3. Paying the price of suffering

2 Samuel 19:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ *You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead.* ⁷ *Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by*

nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come on you from your youth till now.”

He had to deal with the personal pain of losing his son and show gratitude and support for his men.

- Is it ok for leaders to show pain? Of course. But the way we walk through suffering is part of our leadership.

BIG IDEA: Leadership has a price tag!

- It is a HUGE privilege to co-laborer with Christ and it will be richly rewarded in eternity. But for now there is a very real price tag that leaders need to be aware of and be willing to pay.

Challenge:

The leadership challenge is to keep the privilege of leadership higher than the price of leadership.

Usually it is what we focus on most that grows the most. The questions below will help you discover where your focus lies.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the price of leadership look like for you?
2. Is the privilege of leadership greater than the price of leadership for you? If not then you are in dangerous territory.

3. What can you do better to be paying the price of leadership without being distracted by it?

For more notes visit:

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