



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING



1. Kingdom Leadership Tests

A 6 week series tracing the leadership tests that David needed to pass before becoming king.

Series based on Dudley Daniels book '*Building an Apostolic Culture*'. Available as a free download from the Books section of the NCMI app or website - *Section 2: From Bethlehem to the Temple*

INTRODUCTION QUOTES:

Dudley Daniel:

"All of God's tests are life tests.

When we fail a life test that God has put on our path,

we have to repeat it; it is that important. We have to repeat it

as often as it takes for us to pass the test. That is how God

works with us. He does not let us get away with it when we

fail a test or allow us to move on to the next stage. He never

works that way. Once we realise this, that we are never going

to get away with anything, we know that we simply have to

set our heart and mind on passing the tests that God brings our way. Then, not only do we come through the tests, we

can also move on to the next thing that God has for us."

"Sometimes, what we think is the devil doing things to

hinder us, is actually God testing us. Sometimes we may even

blame our spouse for something when it is actually God Who

is bringing a life lesson our way. Often we are blaming the

wrong person; we think it is other believers or other people,

when it is actually God we need to blame. Not that we can

ever actually put 'blame' on God. Many of these times God is

simply sending us around the mountain again because, we

failed a test previously."

1. Faithful in Obscurity (behind the scenes)

1 Sam 16 - The story of the prophet Samuel being sent to anoint one of Jesse's sons to become the next king

- 7 of his sons line up and Samuel assesses each one but God says no.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

*7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**"*

- Then Samuel discovers there is still the youngest out in the fields

1 Samuel 16:11 (NIV)

11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"
"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."
Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

- David had to learn to be faithful in obscurity
- He was faithfully tending the sheep while his brothers were lining up for promotion
- David was a faithful shepherd in Bethlehem
- Jesus was also born in little Bethlehem and there the devil revealed his strategy - kill the child!
- Devil's strategy is to get you unfaithful in obscurity - to kill the baby!
- If the devil can keep you unfaithful in obscurity then God can never promote you into the next phase of your calling.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US AS LEADERS:

- God is not looking for people who will only serve of it is convenient, if it will make you rich or solve your problems
- He is looking for faithful, willing servants who will serve in obscurity
- God will test us so that **we can see** what is in our own hearts
- He knows what is there - He wants us to see it!

BIG IDEA: God will keep us in this test until we show ourselves faithful even when we are bypassed or not even considered.

When we pass this test God can take us to the second stage.

Examples:

- David learnt to kill lions and bears in obscurity before being promoted to take down the giant Goliath
- Moses learnt to live in the desert for 40 years with wild animals before being promoted to lead the Israelites through the desert for another 40 years.

Personal:

- Felt overlooked for eldership - "This is not fair!"
- Extra year in the work place before going full time - God's word to me: "*I'll promote you when they promote you* "

CHALLENGE:

The Bethlehem test is the test of faithfulness in the background. Will you be faithful when you are getting none of the attention, when others are promoted, when nobody seems to notice you?

QUESTIONS:

1. "*When we fail a life test that God has put on our path, we have to repeat it; it is that important. We have to repeat it as often as it takes for us to pass the test.*" Have you ever found yourself going around in circles?
2. As you look back, can you see examples of how God has tested you in obscurity?
3. In what areas of your life right now do you need to pass the "*faithful in obscurity*" test? What do you need to start doing differently?