



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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5. 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*

Jerusalem , Place of Success

Dudley Daniel: *"The last stage is Jerusalem, where the temple was eventually built. Jerusalem means 'founded in peace.' When we are at peace with God and with our fellow man, we begin to reign in righteousness and God can do much in our midst and through us."*

"Peace is a place of righteousness. Peace is the place where God can accomplish all of His purposes through us. Jerusalem then is a place of fruitfulness, not only in victory, but also in absolute success. The test that this represents is whether we will still be faithful when we are in that place?"

These are some of the things David accomplished in Jerusalem:

- He built his palace - from where he exercised his rule and reign
- From Jerusalem he marched out against his enemies
- He enlarged the territory of Israel to its greatest size ever
- He brought the Ark of the Covenant into the city

But it was also the place of David's greatest failures:

1 Chronicles 21:1-3 (NIV)

1 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are."

3 But Joab replied, "May the LORD multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord's subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?"

David seemed to become consumed with success and insecure about success. Why?

- Success in the Kingdom is such a difficult thing to measure
- God measures success differently to us

Example: You might be a pastor with a big church and healthy bank balances

- But consider this...

1 Corinthians 3:12-13 (NIV)

12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

BIG IDEA: Becoming consumed with success can lead to a loss of faithfulness from the very things that

brought the success!

Acts 6:1-2 (NIV)

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables."

The apostles realised that the 'success' of the church

- The growth and increase in numbers
- Was now causing them to be unfaithful to the calling they had received which brought about the success
- They were called to prayer and the ministry of the Word
- But they were faithful and made the adjustment

Dudley: *"We become so busy with so many phone calls, so many preaching appointments, so much of this to do, so much of that, and we can no longer give God an hour or two each morning. That is the beginning of the end. It is so important to be faithful when you are successful. Keep the altar. Keep humble and if anyone gives any glory to anyone, make sure you give it to Jesus."*

CHALLENGE:

So called 'success' can be the greatest faithfulness test of all.

The two critical areas of faithfulness that are required when we are successful:

1. Stay faithful to the call - success can lead to busyness which distracts you from what God called you to do and brought the success in the first place
2. Stay humble - have a sober assessment about yourself

"Whoever you are, keep real. See the thing as it really is. It is God. If He lifts His hand off us we are finished. Therein lies the motivation to stay faithful in the midst of success."

QUESTIONS:

1. How do you measure success in your particular area of influence? Is that the same way God would measure your success?
2. How could busyness and the trappings of success lead to unfaithfulness in your calling?
3. What specific action steps or deliberate habits do you need to take or put in place, to stay faithful in success?