



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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4. Apostolic Leaders

7 KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LEADERSHIP STYLE OF APOSTOLIC CHURCHES

Definition: Apostolic leaders are followers of Jesus with a passion to go and not stay, pioneer and not settle, and to send and not just gather.

The 7 characteristics so far...

1. Passionate love for Jesus
2. Courageous - bold faith
3. Servant hearted & sacrificial

4. Empowering not control - build away from yourself, team at every level, can't have control and growth

This is the characteristic that so many leaders struggle with!

Start with a question: Are you a control freak?

What do I mean by that? Here are some telltale signs:

- Micro managing everything
- Being involved in everything
- Making all the decisions
- Finding fault in everything not done your way
- Insisting that your way is the right way
- Not trusting your leaders
- Telling more than listening and asking

BIG IDEA: You can't have control and growth!

- Have to choose one or the other
- Growth is messy and balls will get dropped
- Control freaks can raise servants but not leaders

Eg. Barnabas - the encourager

- He was a great encouraging prophetic leader
- He saw potential in others
- He opened the door for Paul

Acts 11:22-26 (NIV)

22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a

whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

I love the way Barnabas prioritised building a team and discipling Paul to become the leader that he did.

- Look at how empowering Barnabas was from this example

Acts 11:26 (NIV) “So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church”

Acts 11:30 (NIV)

30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 12:25 (NIV) “When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned”

Acts 13:2 (NIV)

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Acts 13:7 (NIV) The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

Acts 13:42 (NIV) “As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further”

Acts 13:43 (NIV) “many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas”

Acts 13:46 (NIV) Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly

Acts 13:50 (NIV) They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas.

Acts 14:1 (NIV) “At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue.”

Do you see how Barnabas went from being Paul’s mentor and captain, to be a member of Paul’s team under his captaincy!

- Joseph had become Barnabas years before (Act 4:36) now it was Saul who was the one stepping into his new identity
- Barnabas was the leader until Paul became the leader
- Barnabas was happy to see Paul disciplined and growing and then surpassing him

CHALLENGE: Are you willing to build away from yourself and set others up for success?

QUESTIONS:

1. Looking at the example list of control freak tendencies, are you a control freak?
2. What do you find most difficult about trusting others with a responsibility?
3. What would you need to do differently to become more of an empowerer like Barnabas?

ANSWERS:

1. I don’t think I’m a control freak leader but discovered a horrible controlling characteristic in my leadership a few years ago when I realised that sometimes I would hand a responsibility to someone and then if I don’t see them doing anything with it, promptly hand it to someone else without first sitting down to discuss it.
2. The most difficult aspect of trusting someone is to trust their timing. It is not so much will they do it the way I would do it but will they do it in the time I would do it.
3. So to become more Barnabas like, I will need to keep my hands off a delegated responsibility and not touch it again without going through the person I delegated it to.