



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING



6. 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 controlling
5. Pioneering not maintaining

6. Modelled leadership well - setting an example of going

Bottom line here is that you can't claim to be an apostolic leader while you sit at home base and never go anywhere!

- Leaders set the pace
- Leaders need to model the vision they are trying to accomplish

So to lead people to become apostolic

- mission focused, nations reaching Great Commission followers of Jesus...
- **WE AS THE LEADERS NEED TO BE MODELLING IT**

The example I want to use here is young Timothy

- Paul began to look for leaders with an apostolic heart
- He had first tried to train John Mark and that had failed
- Next he chooses a young leader named Timothy - WHY?

Acts 16:1-4 (NIV)

1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. 2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.

BIG IDEA: The believers at both churches spoke well of him

- That means that he was already ministering into both churches
- He moved between locations well
- He moved between cultures well
- We was willing to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel (getting circumcised!)
- He was willing to leave home for the sake of the gospel

In other words he was already modelling the type of apostolic leadership that Paul was looking for

- Timothy may have been timid
- May have struggled with health issues
- May have been young

But God raised him up to be a great apostolic leader

Philippians 2:19-23 (NIV)

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

BIG IDEA: Leaders need to model the type of behaviour that they want to see in the people they lead

QUESTIONS:

1. Are you modelling an apostolic lifestyle?
2. How do you start if you are not already doing it?
3. What is your Acts 1:8 Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth? Have you stepped into each of those spheres?

ANSWERS:

1. It is pretty easy for me to model an apostolic lifestyle now after being in the same church for almost 23 years and having a base to work from. The greater challenge was modelling it in the early days when we didn’t have many leaders, had no money and didn’t feel we had any value to add. But by God’s grace we did and that has helped keep the vision big and outward focussed and created space for other leaders to come through.
2. The best way to start is to be a Timothy to someone who is already doing it. In the NCMI team are amazing men and woman working into most of the nations around the world. And almost all of them are looking for faithful Timothys to raise up and help with the work. Simply connecting relationally and volunteering to go along and help will open amazing doors for your future.
3. I live in Zululand on the east coast of South Africa. Our Jerusalem is a small city of Richards Bay where we have evangelism teams and ministry teams reaching out. Our Judea is the Zululand region where we help plant churches and send weekend teams to encourage and minister. Our Samaria is the nations of Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe where we have annual trips to work with partner churches. And the ends of the earth for us has been South America, India & Pakistan and parts of Europe. This hasn’t happened over night but has been intentional. What we find is that different people in the church get excited about different ‘spheres’ which is why we want to open doors into each of them.