



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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Learning to Lead - Part 2

Aim: This series is aimed at young leaders starting out in leadership

10 Lessons for those just learning to lead

1. Leaders have learnt to see themselves as leaders

2. Leaders feel fear but have learnt to face fear

Facing fears and overcoming fears is what leaders do

- There is no escaping it
- There is no getting away from it

If you think you are a leader but never have to face up to fearful situations then you are probably not really leading!

Why?

- Because leaders do new things and most people fear change
- Because leaders take risks and face the fear of failure
- Because leaders stretch themselves and fear they might not be up to the task
- Because leaders often have to stand up in front of people and speak and most people fear standing up in front of a crowd
- Because leaders are responsible and carry the consequences if everything goes wrong
- Because leaders challenge the status quo and have to face opposition, rejection and criticism
- And the list goes on...

BIG IDEA: Leaders have to learn to face their fears!

Two quotes that have always stuck with me:

Quote: *"Leadership is the art of disguising fear"*

Craig Groechel *"The pathway to your greatest breakthrough is straight through your greatest fear"*

3 Ways to learn to face, overcome and manage our fears

1. Meditate on God's Word until you are convinced that God is with you

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

God spoke this word to Joshua three times!

- This is not just an empty pep talk to be strong and courageous
- See the little word 'for...' - the reason that Joshua can be strong and courageous is *'for the LORD your God*

- will be with you wherever you go'*
- He had to be convinced of this and so do we!

Remember last week about all of Gideon’s excuses?

Judges 6:15-16 (NIV)
15 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”
16 The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

The key to his victory? *“I will be with you...”*

Fear is overcome when we are convinced that God really is with us!

2. Grow your faith until it is bigger than your fear

1 Samuel 17:36-37 (NIV)
36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”
Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”

David’s faith in God’s saving power had grown because he had seen how God had used him and protected him in the past

- Think about what God has done in your past
- Build your faith in God’s faithfulness by recognising how God has delivered you in the past
- This gives faith for the future

Eg. Faced our first building project because we had seen how God had provided for us when we planted the church

3. Believe in the goodness of God and not the lies of fear

Do you know that fear lies!

- Fear tells the worst story
- Fear exaggerates the danger and opposition
- Fear makes you doubt God and doubt yourself
- Fear lies!

The truth of God’s Word for those who follow Jesus like a sheep follows a good shepherd:

Psalms 23:6 (NIV) *“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life”*

David wasn’t fearing disaster, he was expecting goodness and love

- This has been so helpful to me to shut down the lies of the enemy and my pessimistic attitude

Nehemiah faced his fears and approached the king about leading the project to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. How did he overcome his fears?

Nehemiah 2:8 (NIV)
8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

He knew that the gracious hand of God was upon him

These leaders had learnt to overcome the lies of fear by trusting in the goodness of God

YOUR TURN:

1. Are you really, REALLY, convinced that God is with you which means you have an unfair advantage and every reason to succeed?
2. When you look back on your life, what lions and bears has God already helped you to overcome?
3. What lies of fear do you usually fall for? Are you ready to start trusting in the truth of his goodness rather than falling for the lies of fear?