



# MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

## - BY BRENT BRADING



## Learning to Lead - Part 10

**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
3. Leaders have learnt what leadership REALLY IS
4. Leaders have learnt what leadership is DEFINITELY NOT
5. Leaders have learnt to clarify the vision, purpose or goal
6. Leaders have learnt that people need to be loved, appreciated and encouraged
7. Leaders have learnt to develop trust by their character, calling and competence
8. Leaders have learnt to grow teams by empower others
9. Leaders have learnt to win hearts by loving from the heart

### 10. Leaders have learnt that leadership is tough and so don't quit

**Moses** wanted to quit as a leader .... But didn't, and God used him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the desert for 40 years.

**Elijah** wanted to quit as a leader .... But didn't, and God used him as such a powerful prophet who then raised up Elisha and handed over the ministry to him.

**John the Baptist** got depressed and even sent his disciples to find out if Jesus really was the Messiah or if it had all been a waste. But he didn't quit. He was martyred for his faith and Jesus called him the greatest of the Old Testament prophets.

**Mark** wanted to quit from apostolic ministry ... he turned back when the going got tough. But went on to wrote the Gospel of Mark and be helpful to both the apostles Peter and Paul.

Quote I heard: *"Leadership is about solving problems. If you don't have problems you are probably not leading anything"*

### So how do we lead in a way that we don't quit?

1. Recognise that leadership is hard

I find it helpful to remember this extract from Paul's CV every now and again:

*2 Corinthians 11:24-25 (NIV)*

*24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.."*

Suddenly my problems don't seem so big!

- Point is - leadership is tough

- Once you settle that it doesn't seem so bad!

**How did Paul stay positive?**

*2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)*

*17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

**He kept the vision!**

2. **Remind yourself of the call**

*2 Timothy 2:10 (NIV)*

*10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.*

**Remind yourself of why you do what you do**

- If it is just a job - you will probably quit
- If it is for glory, popularity or self importance - you will probably quit
- But if it is for Jesus and his people - you will '*endure all things for the sake of the elect*'

**Hardships refine our motives**

- Let God strip away all that is not of Him so that only love for our King and His Bride keep us going

3. **Just be consistent**

William Carey, great missionary to China said, '*I can plod and persevere. That is my only genius.*'

Maxwell "*People over estimate what can be done in an event. But under estimate what can be achieved in a lifetime*"

**Learning to do the mundane things well - with excellence and love - this is the key to long term success**

*Galatians 6:9 (NIV)*

*9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

**I dream of preaching that one amazing sermon that will transform everyone instantly!**

- Reality is, it's the consistent preaching a simple message about Jesus week after week that transforms people

**When I was ordained I remember what was preached:**

- The truckers in the USA are not the fastest vehicles on the road
- But because they just keep going they cross the continent in record times
- Just keep going!

4. **Surround yourself with good people**

*Exodus 17:12 (NIV)*

*12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.*

Eg. Moses needed Aaron and Hur to keep his hands up in prayer through a difficult battle

**If leadership is lonely it is because you are not buiding enough of a team around you**

- Remember that friendship leads to fruitfulness
- The right friends will make you more fruitful and will make them more fruitful

- Lead as a team

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)*

*12 Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.*

*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

5. Lead yourself well

*Acts 20:28 (NIV)*

*28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.*

Keep watch **over yourself** and the flock ...

**That means monitoring the tanks inside you: your spiritual, emotional, mental and physical tank**

- When we are operating in grace the tanks are emptied and filled at the same rate
- It is when we are out of the grace zone that we can end up doing damage to ourselves, our relationships and ministry

*1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV)*

*10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.*

**When we work within the grace of God, we can be poured out like a drink offering because we are being filled by the Spirit**

**BIG IDEA:**

**Leadership is like running a marathon, not running a sprint**

- Recognise that it is a tough calling and so don't complain when problems arise.
- Remind yourself of why you are leading - if not for love of Jesus and His people you will run out of desire
- Be consistent - just keep doing the basics well - with love and excellence
- Surround yourself with good friends - don't isolate yourself.
- Lead yourself well - monitor those internal tank levels. When they are emptying faster than filling - it's time to make some adjustments.

**YOUR TURN:**

1. What is your reaction to the title - Leadership is tough? Why?
2. What for you is the hardest part of leadership? Why?
3. Of the five points mentioned, which one do you need to take hold of and grow in?