

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP37

7 Signs of Good Government: Good Governance Enforces Boundaries

FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is "7 Signs of Good Government"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Good Governance Enforces Boundaries" But before we start on the new topic, we will usually

hold each other accountable about last week's action step.

Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.

STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

Option 1: Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #**). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

Option 2: The leader reads all the sections.

Option 3: Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/HGfSkcUTgmg>

READER 1

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV 1984) “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.”

*There is a link between good government and peace - where government grows, **SO DOES PEACE!***

WHAT DO I MEAN BY GOVERNMENT? *It simply means the way that we exercise the authority that God has given us.*

You may recognize some of these signs of a lack of government in your life, marriage, family, ministry or business:

- 1.** *A lack of peace*
- 2.** *A lack of order*
- 3.** *A lack of respect*
- 4.** *A lack of discipline*
- 5.** *A lack of productivity*

Lets focus on a lack of **ORDER**

- *everyone does what they want*
- *Nobody does what they should!*

What does this look like? Poor maintenance, chaos, lack of punctuality, bad planning

Judges 17:6 (NLT) *In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.*

A home or business or church that is a mess is a sign of lack of government

Personal: Once again I find this one quite convicting!

- *Did a walk around the back of our church building recently and realized that there is a mess and lack of maintenance.*
- *There is no one taking responsibility because I haven't assigned responsibility to someone.*
- *A state of disrepair is a sign of poor governance!*

Good news is that we can grow in our ability to exercise good government

The three main enemies we face:

1. Fear of conflict / people pleaser - it is the fear of facing conflict and possibly offending people that holds us back from dealing with issues.

2. Lack of confidence - personal insecurities hold us back when we should be stepping forward.

3. Indifference - not rising up and taking responsibility but rather giving away or abdicating that responsibility to others.

Let's recognize the enemy so that we can face these giants and grow in governance!

READER 4

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

#1: GOOD GOVERNANCE CONFRONTS SIN

#2: GOOD GOVERNANCE ENFORCES BOUNDARIES

Remember, when I use words like ‘confronts sin’ and ‘enforces boundaries’, I’m not talking about being rude or nasty or angry.

- In fact the best way to exercise government is with kindness and gentleness but firmness.

***Eg.** King Solomon - his father David had warned him about a particular guy, Shimei, a real two faced scoundrel who cursed David when Absalom rose up against him and then blessed David as soon as David won the war.*

READER 5

1 Kings 2:36-40 (NLT)

36 The king then sent for Shimei and told him, “Build a house here in Jerusalem and live there. But don’t step outside the city to go anywhere else. 37 On the day you so much as cross the

Kidron Valley, you will surely die; and your blood will be on your own head.”

38 Shimei replied, “Your sentence is fair; I will do whatever my lord the king commands.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time. I love the way that Solomon set a clear boundary. It was agreed upon. The consequences were made clear.

39 But three years later two of Shimei’s slaves ran away to King Achish son of Maacah of Gath. When Shimei learned where they were, 40 he saddled his donkey and went to Gath to search for them. When he found them, he brought them back to Jerusalem.

*Here we see that Shimei crossed the boundary - for a very legitimate reason. There is **ALWAYS** an excuse as to why the boundary line was crossed.*

1 Kings 2:46 (NLT)

46 Then, at the king’s command, Benaiah son of Jehoiada took Shimei outside and killed him.

So the kingdom was now firmly in Solomon’s grip.

The power of this example is that it was Shimei who made the decision and NOT Solomon. When good boundaries are set and enforced then you are not the baddie - the person who crossed the boundary is the one who made the decision.

Result was a firmness and stability to Solomon's authority.

Eg. A simple example is the time at which the church meeting starts

- Visited a church that had a countdown timer*
- got to zero and bounced back to five minutes because not enough people had arrived.*
- What is communicated is that it is ok to come late because we will wait for you. Result is that next week people come even later!*
- The 'kingdom' is not being firmly established but is **SLIPPING!***

CHALLENGE: Good governance enforces boundaries instead of letting them slide. So...

1. Do an honest assessment of yourself, family, ministry, business - are you clearly establishing boundaries with agreement and consequences? Are you letting agreed upon boundaries slide?

2. *If so then it's time to repent - repentance is an invitation for God's intervention!*

3. *Trust the Lord and begin to step up - deep down you want respect more than popularity so speak up!*

STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.*

STEP #5: ACTION

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer this question: What action step can you take to grow in the area of this topic by next week? Ask each member to share a practical action step and date of action. Make sure the Group Leader and the individual write them down for next week's accountability step.

CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

