

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP38

7 Signs of Good Government: Good Governance Holds People Accountable

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 Holds People Accountable" 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/qLiXPJ3DSOs>

READER 1

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

Why is this so important?

2 Samuel 23:3-4 (NIV)

3 The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, 4 he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth.'

The exercising of authority in a godly manner is a glorious thing:

- It brings hope*
- Drives away darkness*
- Releases potential*

The exercising of godly governance is a beautiful way to glorify God!

You may recognize some of these signs of a lack of governance 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***

Take a quick look at this third one: **A lack of RESPECT**

Looks like: Disrespectful language, eye rolling, no greetings, no please and thank you's, rude interruptions, bulldozing others ideas, etc.

READER 2

Here is the great challenge of scripture - Paul instructs young Timothy who was in a tough environment as a young leader of the church in Ephesus:

1 Timothy 4:12 (NLT)

12 Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

In other words - you can't blame others for not respecting you, the responsibility lies with you!

- *people respect people who lead themselves well*
- *It is a sign of good governance when you lead yourself well*

One of the challenges of growing in governance is to not allow an environment of disrespect to grow and not to not enable disrespectful behaviour but to confront it head on in a polite but firm way.

READER 3

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. This is the big one we will deal with today when it comes to holding people accountable.*
- 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 GOVERNANCE

#1: GOOD GOVERNANCE CONFRONTS SIN

#2: GOOD GOVERNANCE ENFORCES BOUNDARIES

#3: GOOD GOVERNANCE HOLDS PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE

This is similar to enforcing boundaries but includes much more than that. It includes:

- *Agreed upon goals*
- *Agreed upon behaviour*

- *Agreed upon action steps*

*That is what accountability means. It means establishing **AGREED UPON EXPECTATIONS** (including deliverables, behaviours and timelines) and then checking in with people to ensure that they are being followed through on.*

A great biblical example of this happens with Samuel when he gives the new King Saul an instruction from the Lord about completely destroying an enemy army. When he comes to inspect, he finds that not all the enemy and their livestock have been destroyed as God commanded.

READER 5

1 Samuel 15:13-15 (NLT)

13 When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. “May the LORD bless you,” he said. “I have carried out the LORD’s command!”

14 “Then what is all the bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cattle I hear?” Samuel demanded. 15 “It’s true that the army spared the

best of the sheep, goats, and cattle,” Saul admitted. “But they are going to sacrifice them to the LORD your God. We have destroyed everything else.”

You notice that Samuel asked the hard question even when he knew it was going to be an awkward answer - that’s good governance

- *Not backing away from godly confrontation*
- *But facing it in the right way*

Personally I have been really challenged in this area. In fact I recently heard this quote: “What you don’t inspect, your team won’t respect”

- *Yikes. That means asking the hard questions and not backing away from challenging situations*

READER 6

Some of the areas I am facing in the church in this regard:

- **Vision drift** - holding myself accountable to the church in terms of the strategies God has given us. Not just changing the vision!
- **Leaders under performing** - holding the leadership team accountable to the agreed upon expectations.
- **Elders not achieving goals** - holding the church elders accountable to their areas of oversight and the agreed upon objectives.

CHALLENGE: Good governance holds people accountable. So...

1. Do an honest assessment of yourself, family, ministry, business - are you holding yourself and the people you lead accountable? Or are you afraid of the awkward conversations that might follow? Are you making your expectations clear so that you can hold them accountable?

2. If not then it's time to repent - repentance is an invitation for God's intervention!

3. Trust the Lord and begin to lead - establish clear expectations. Come to an agreement. And then hold people accountable.

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>

