

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP39

7 Signs of Good Government:

Good Governance Makes Sure Decisions Get Made

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 Makes Sure Decisions Get Made" 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/inFslWcuqak>

READER 1

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

Why is this so important?

Psalms 8:5-6 (NIV)

5 *“You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet”*

God has created us to carry rulership - to lead. And the ‘crown’ of that authority is glory and honour

- *That means that the symbol of our authority as godly leaders should be glory and honour to God.*
- *The way we exercise authority is called governance - and we should aim to do this in a way that glorifies God.*

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*

Quick focus on this fourth one: A lack of DISCIPLINE

Looks like: *Bad behaviour, no healthy habits, laziness, lack of growth, lack of personal discipline eg. Physical, spiritual, mental, emotional*

1 Timothy 3:4 (NLT)

4 He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him.

READER 2

Usually a lack of discipline is rooted in a lack of VISION

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

“Where there is no vision, the people perish”

Someone who has no discipline usually has no vision. Likewise someone with a strong personal vision usually has high discipline.

Vision is a big part of leadership. So if you are lacking in the discipline department make sure that you have not lost sight of God's vision for your life, family, ministry or business.

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. This is the one we are going to face in today's lesson about making decisions.

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!

7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

#1: GOOD GOVERNANCE CONFRONTS SIN

#2: GOOD GOVERNANCE ENFORCES BOUNDARIES

#3: GOOD GOVERNANCE HOLDS PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE

#4: GOOD GOVERNANCE MAKES SURE DECISIONS GET MADE

This may sound like a strange sign of good governance but have you ever been in a situation where a decision has to be made and the leader is just not willing to make it.

For me this is a challenging one because very few decisions are between good and bad. Usually they are between good and good. Usually it is between two of your values that are colliding.

Usually it means Option A and half the people will be happy and the other upset. And Option B the other way round!

To delay a decision is wise if more information is going to be available. But seldom do we get all the facts and all the information. More important is to remember that no decision is a decision! More important is to remember that saying 'Yes' to something automatically means saying 'No' to something else. Decisions can be hard and so good governance is required to make sure that a decision is made.

Eg. James at the council of apostles. There was a contentious issue that arose in the early church about how many of the Jewish customs and laws the new Gentile believers needed to obey. I can imagine the hours of debate.

Acts 15:13 (NIV)

13 When they finished, James spoke up.

“Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.”

Acts 15:19-20 (NIV)

19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.”

James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, realized that a decision had to be made.

- *First he gave everyone a chance to be heard.*
- *Then he stood up and made the best decision he could.*

I bet that there were some who weren't 100% in agreement with his decision. But the fact that a decision was made meant that the church could move forward.

READER 5

Illust: ***How the church responds to COVID has forced leaders to make decisions which are tough on eldership teams***

- *Some lean towards being full of faith and avoid restrictions.*
- *Others lean towards being full of pastoral love and protecting people and so not opening doors.*
- *This is a time for good governance where leaders need to make decisions.*

CHALLENGE: ***Good governance makes sure that decisions get made. So...***

1. Do an honest assessment of yourself, family, ministry, business - are you making sure that decisions get made timeously or are you in the habit of stalling making decisions because of a fear of consequences or opinions?

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

3. Trust the Lord, pray for wisdom and then make the best decision you can - remember that no decision is a decision!

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>

