

Mustard seed leadership

WHY MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP?

Matthew 13:31-32 (NLT)

31 Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."

BIG IDEA: Small kingdom adjustments can produce amazing fruit

- the kingdom is so powerful that even small truths can make significant differences
- So what are some small kingdom leadership truths we can work on?

#4 LISTENING

John Maxwell *"If you are talking you are not learning. We are only learning when we are listening"*

James 1:19 (NLT)

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

What does "quick to listen" mean?

Most understand what "Quick to speak" means:

1. Speak before listening & thinking
2. You interrupt others to speak
3. You assume you understand so speak

Illustration: As a new leader thought my job was to solve people's problems. Listen for one or two sentences and then tell them what to do. And then wonder why they never did!?

Why do leaders struggle with listening?

1. Arrogance of assumption - thinking that you know why they are going to be saying and so cutting them short.
2. Defense mechanism - you don't like what they are starting to say and so jump into defense or justify mode.
3. Superiority - thinking they what I say and my opinion is more important

4. Busyness - projects and deadlines and schedules mean we don't have time to stop and really listen to people

Story: Was challenged by one of our deacons. Just before the start of a church meeting someone was telling me how sick they were and how they were struggling. My response? "That's wonderful", and moved on to the next person!

Why is listening so powerful?

1. It is a great compliment - shows people that you value them
2. It brings true understanding - only when you have really understood the problem can you find real solutions
3. Gives you time to really process and consider a response - if you are quick to listen you will be slower to speak and slower to become angry.

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How to listen well?

1. With intentionality of attitude - if you have been with someone who is a great listener then you will know that they have made you feel like the most important person in the world.
2. With your eyes - this is what I teach my kids. "Listen with your eyes". Don't you hate talking to someone when they are typing in their phone! Focus. Body language.
3. With questions - ask clarifying questions. Ask if this is what they meant. Ask them to explain a bit more.

Commission:

- A mark of a great leader is good listening skills - it helps bring out the best in your team.
- If you do it well, your team will grow so much faster.

This week's leadership mustard seed: How good are you at listening?

- Will you practice listening to the people around you and see the difference
- Quick to listen is a quick way to grow your leadership influence.

Why? Because in the Kingdom, mustard seed adjustments can make a massive difference.

Hope it helps

God bless

Brent