

# MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

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EP41

## 7 Signs of Good Government: Good Governance Doesn't Avoid Crucial Conversations

### 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 Doesn't Avoid Crucial Conversations" 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/A2tvvml8zpc>

## READER 1

# 7 SIGNS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

***Why is this so important?***

## ***Judges 5:1-2 (NIV 1984)***

*1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:*

*2 “When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the LORD!*

***There is something glorious about a spiritual gift being used well for God’s glory!***

- *When those called to lead exercise that leadership gift in a God honouring way*
- *And when the people of God respond to their leadership in a God honouring way*
- *The result is “Praise the Lord!”*
- *We can’t control how people respond to our leadership, but we can take the lead in a God honoring way*
- *That’s my encouragement to all of us - if God has put a leadership gift in you - and you wouldn’t be watching / listening to this if not - then don’t settle back but take the lead as a prince in His Kingdom!*

***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***

## READER 2

***And we have looked in depth at each of these over the past few weeks***

***Have also been mentioning the giants we have to face if we are going to repent and change***

***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 me take a minute and address the first two: fear of conflict and lack of confidence** - *both are rooted in a poor identity which causes us to desire approval and praise from man to boost our identity*

**Galatians 1:10 (NIV 1984)**

*10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

**READER 3**

**Paul declared that it is impossible to try and please man and please God at the same time**

- *You can only serve one master*
- *The desire for the praise of man is a master that wants to control you*
- *We have to choose who is lord of our lives - it is a lordship issue*

### **John 12:42-43 (NIV 1984)**

*42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.*

### ***This is the root of the problem - the love of praise from man***

- *The only way to deal with this is to let the horror of our sin pierce our hearts deeply enough to cause repentance*
- *We need a revelation that the empty, short lived praises of man are nothing compared to the eternal praise from God*

***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**

**#5: GOOD GOVERNANCE MAKES THINGS HAPPEN**

**#6: GOOD GOVERNANCE DOESN'T AVOID CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS**

***This is a critical and unavoidable sign of leadership growth and maturity***

- *Are you willing to have awkward conversations?*
- *Whether it is holding someone accountable, giving feedback, confronting poor performance, challenging an attitude etc.*

***They are not easy - but are absolutely crucial***

***Quote “Only as successful as the number of awkward conversations you are willing to have”***

## READER 5

***Eg. Esther faced an enormous challenge of having to face the king***

- *The custom was that she was only entitled to address the king if he initiated the conversation*
- *But now to save her people she would have to take a brave step and initiate the conversation*



## **Esther 4:14 (NLT)**

*14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"*

**Illust:** *Reminds me of an Elders meeting many years ago*

- *Sat quietly listening when deep inside I knew that the decision being made was wrong*
- *But was nervous about challenging the leader*
- *Then getting an elbow in the ribs from my wife -*  
**SPEAK UP!**

***To exercise godly governance means we have to have the courage to speak up and have those awkward but critical conversations***

READER 6

## **CHALLENGE:**

***Good governance doesn't avoid crucial conversations. So...***

- ***Do an honest assessment of yourself, family, ministry, business - are you having conversations in your head, that you should be having face to face but are afraid to?***

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

- ***How?***

- ***Choose the right time:*** Not when you are mad, emotional or time pressured. But as soon as possible!

- ***Choose the right environment:*** The Bible says go privately - not in front of others.

- ***Choose the right heart:*** To win someone over - intent is critical if content is to be received.

***Remember: "Only as successful as the number of awkward conversations you are willing to have"***

### 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>

