

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP52

The Leadership Difference: Different Hands

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 "The Leadership Difference"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Different Hands" 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/0A0pbf4dp14>

READER 1

THE LEADERSHIP DIFFERENCE

When Jesus spoke to his disciples about leadership he said:

*“But among you it will be different” **Matthew 20:26 (NLT)***

*When Jesus touches our lives it **MUST** make a difference otherwise it wasn't really Jesus who touched us!*

Examples:

Paralyzed man lowered through the roof -
Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk and he did. He was completely healed.

When Jesus touched a life - physically or with a word, that person was different

- ***So surely if Jesus has touched our leadership **IT MUST BE DIFFERENT!*****
- ***If our leadership is **NOT DIFFERENT** to the world then it is because we have not let Jesus touch that part of our leadership***

READER 2

5 WAYS THAT BARNABAS WAS A DIFFERENT LEADER:

1. Different EYES
2. Different TONGUE
3. Different HEART
4. Different HANDS

Acts 11:23-26 (NIV)

23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. **25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.**”

Most leaders: Some have idle hands or controlling hands, wanting to do it all themselves, or closed fist - lack generosity. Or balled up hands to fight!

Barnabas: 'Went to Tarsus to look for Saul and when he found him he brought him to Antioch'

Illustration:

Only 237km from Antioch to Tarsus - nowadays only 3 hours by car, or 3 days walking on good roads

- *For Barnabas it probably took longer*
- *Then he had to locate Paul*
- *Then to return*
- *At least a two week journey*
- *He left his fledgling church for two weeks because he was a different leader*
- *He didn't want to lead alone, he wanted to build a team.*
- *He had recognized potential in Paul that God could use*

MARKS OF BARNABAS' LEADERSHIP

- *He was an empowering leader*
- *happy to disciple others*
- *He was a team builder - wanting to build away from himself*
- *Before he started a task, he found the right people to do it with*
- *He paid a great price to build a great team*

Take a quick look four years ahead at the fruit of his leadership:

Acts 13:1 (NIV)

“Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.”

READER 4

Here was the church leadership team of 5 men:

- 1. Barnabas**, a Jewish man and the captain of the team
- 2. Simeon**, a black man from Africa.
- 3. Lucius**, a Greek man, possibly Luke the doctor.
- 4. Manaen**, a wealthy, well educated Roman man.
- 5. Saul**, who became Paul, a Jewish ex-Rabbi.

Do you notice the diversity - the intentionality Barnabas must have put into building such a diverse team

- *His hands were truly different*
- *He shared the load*
- *He empowered others*
- *He trusted people different to himself*

These are great characteristics of a leader

Have you truly asked Jesus to touch your HANDS?

READER 5

CHALLENGE: HOW DO WE HAVE DIFFERENT HANDS?

1. Different hands are open and not closed

Philippians 2:6 (NIV 1984) “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped”

Jesus never GRASPED after position, privilege or power

- *Jesus was open handed*

- *Always giving*
- *Always serving*

Result of grasping handed leadership is lack of trust, competitive spirit and lack of cooperation between team members

2. Different hands are empowering and not controlling

The temptation for many leaders is to hold onto power or authority through:

- *Insisting that they make all the decisions*
- *Making everyone run everything through them first*
- *Micro managing team members*
- *Refusing to delegate authority with tasks*

Result of controlling handed leadership like this is the inability to raise up more leaders - you can gather servants but not raise leaders

3. Different hands build away from yourself and not towards yourself

This is about intentionality around working yourself out of a job

- *I remember being taught early on in my church leadership that the goal is for the church to function WITHOUT you.*
- *That doesn't make you redundant in the Kingdom, it makes you promotable - God will open more doors of opportunity*

To build away from yourself requires an intentional attitude to:

- *Identify*
- *Invest*
- *Empower others.*

Result of leadership hands that only build towards yourself is a ceiling on future growth and promotion.

BIG IDEA: *Baranabas had different hands. Result of leading with open and empowering hands was an amazing team.*

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: Application

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:

- 1. What privileges, position or power are you trying to hold onto with closed hands?*
- 2. Would the people you lead describe you as controlling or empowering? Might be worth asking them...*
- 3. Are you building towards yourself or away from yourself? How well would your ministry or organization run without you?*

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>

