

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?

#6 EXAMPLE

The example of a leaders life will always be one of the top leadership tools we carry.

Quote: *"People first need to buy into the visionary before they buy into the vision"*

That means mustard seed changes to the example of your character and behavior can produce significant growth in your leadership effectiveness.

Eg.

- Way you speak
- Kindness shown to others
- Punctuality
- Respectful attitude
- Way you handle stress and conflict
- The list goes on...

People have the rightful expectation of leaders that they *"Practice what they preach"*

Personally I have found two things really tough about setting an example for the people we lead:

1. People only ever seem to reach a maximum of 80% of the example you set! That's why we have to aim high and live a life worthy of the calling God has given us. Leaders need to be maximum people - your example will set the standard.
2. Sadly, a negative example is a lot more contagious than a positive one. Eg. For years we teach our kids to say please and thank you and still they struggle. But say one swear word and the door is open!

Illust: I was rudely reminded a few years back that there is no day-off from a good example. Usually as a preacher I take Mondays off after a busy Sunday. So one Monday I was grumpy and tired and frustrated with the cashier at the grocery store. When I finally walked away she said "Goodbye Pastor, I hope to see you Sunday!" - Yikes. Someone is always watching.

So what encouragement can we get from the scriptures about setting a good example?

WHY YOUR EXAMPLE IS SO IMPORTANT

1. To try and lead without a good example is to lord over

1 Peter 5:3 (NLT)

3 Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.

A good example is what leadership is. If your leadership message and your life example are in any way different then you are going to have to start forcing people to follow you - and Peter says DON'T

Don't just teach your vision and values but practice modeling them to your organization.

2. Your example will win followers that your title won't

Having a title doesn't make you a leader. Setting an inspiring example does.

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.

Timothy had the position of leadership in the church but Paul the wise old apostle advises him to use the influence of his example and not his title to win the hearts of those who were difficult to lead.

This is also true of leading up - that means influencing those who are in positions of leadership over you. Let your actions speak louder than your words and then respect will follow. And when someone respects you they will listen to your opinion.

3. Play the long game

Every day you set a good example is like storing up leadership credit in your leadership trust account.

Hebrews 13:7 (NLT)

7 Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

Leading by example is not a quick fix leadership solution but a long term trust builder. The better you lead yourself, the more powerfully your example will impact others.

Your example is the most powerful form of teaching you have.

Commission:

- A mark of a great leader is the example of their lives.
- If you do this well you will be building influence all the time which compounds over time.
- If not, and there is a gap between what you say and what people see, then you will always be struggling to get people to follow you.

This weeks leadership mustard seed: How good is the example of your life?

- Will you take a moment to evaluate your behavior and ask yourself if this is how you want the people of your organization to behave?

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