

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?

#7 SERVING

To serve means to put the needs of others before yourself.

The description of "servant leadership" has become quite popular over the last 10 years. As Patrick Lencioni, author and leadership consultant says: "*Servant leadership is not one form of leadership. It is the only form of leadership*"

What does it mean to be a servant leader?

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

1. It means being focussed on others and not self absorbed. This is the mark of humility.

Quote "*Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is simply thinking about yourself less*"

2. It means honestly seeing others as being worthy to be served

If you see yourself as superior you will expect to be served. If you see others as worthy then you will want to serve them.

3. It means taking an interest and caring about the lives of others

One of my favorite stories of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, was how he got to know personally his bodyguards and the lady who made him tea in his presidential office. The way you treat the “least” reveals the most about you.

How to be a servant leader?

Jesus modeled this revolutionary new way of leadership and expected his followers to adopt the same style.

Once when they were arguing about who would be the greatest amongst the team, he had this to say:

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)

25 But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 26 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. 28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

How do we lead as a servant?

1. Leverage your authority to connect people to the opportunities and connections you have

- Having authority gives you opportunities and connections that those you lead won't have.

- Eg. Because of my role on an apostolic team I have open doors of opportunity to many churches in many nations. I can serve young and upcoming leaders by opening those doors of opportunity and taking them along for the journey.

2. See your leadership role as an opportunity to add value to the people around you

- Many have the wrong perception of leadership - they see title or privilege.
- Learn to see leadership as an opportunity to add value to the the lives of others.
- Eg. Having 20 years of leadership experience means I've learned some things along the way. One of the best ways I can serve is to find ways of passing on that experience to other leaders.

3. Grow your leadership by growing the number of people you serve

- Many would evaluate their greatness by the number of people who serve them.
- Jesus reverses that by saying your greatness is measured by the number of people you serve.

Here is a final thought: Kingdom leaders serve people because they are servants of Christ

2 Corinthians 4:5 (NLT)

5 You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake.

In other words - as leaders we serve but not because people are our master but because Christ is our Master

Commission:

- A mark of a great leader is their willingness to serve
- If you do this well God will promote you in the Kingdom
- If not, and you expect people to serve you because you have a leadership title then you will find yourself pushing against God.

This weeks leadership mustard seed: How much of a servant are you, REALLY?

- Will you take a moment to evaluate your behavior and see if you are really serving others or expecting others to serve you

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