

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP85

Faithful & Wise Managers

Focus is on managing the call of God on our lives .

FAITHFUL & WISE MANAGERS

6 Week series about learning to manage the inheritance or responsibility that God has given you.

KEY TEXT:

Luke 12:42 (NIV)⁴² The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?

So ‘managing’ is about being a good steward - effectively **governing** a household for order & growth

LESSONS SO FAR:

1. Management is stewardship which is a crucial Kingdom skill of leadership - future leadership is determined by current management.
2. The management of our responsibilities is always being held to account and determines our future inheritance.

PART 3: MANAGING GOD'S CALL ON YOUR LIFE

*1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (NIV)¹ This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those **entrusted** with [who are managers of] the mysteries God has revealed. ²Now it is required that those who have been **given a trust** [are managers] must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me*

innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

The BIG IDEA of this passage is that we are not just called to manage people and things, but a MESSAGE as well.

- This speaks about the CALL OF GOD upon our lives
- We have been given an assignment, gifts and a specific race to run.
- This sacred calling needs to be managed or stewarded well.

Examples of God's call:

Jeremiah 1:10 (NIV) "See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear

down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us”

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) “For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

It is a HUGE PRIVILEGE to be called by God but it does come with a great sense of responsibility.

PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT

1. **Manage expectations**

1 Corinthians 4:3 “I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.”

What will short circuit our ability to fulfill God's call is trying to live up to other people's expectations of us rather than God's

Eg. The expectations of a pastor's wife! Everyone else seems to have a plan for your life.

Insecurities - misplaced expectations on ourselves put so much pressure on ourselves.

Better way to manage God's call is to with
CLARITY

2 Peter 1:10 (NIV 1984) “Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.”

MANAGE GOD’S CALL ON YOUR LIFE BY MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

2 . Manage your measure of success

1 Cor 4: 5 “Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes.”

Eg. Speed of growth doesn’t always measure true success!

Illust: Remember how insecure I felt seeing a colleague start a church and grow past us so quickly. Sadly, that didn’t last. It might have grown quickly but it also collapsed quickly.

Our measure of success is not speed, numbers or money

- It is **OBEDIENCE** to God's calling

John 17:4 (NIV) “I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.”

Once again, the importance of clarity of calling is crucial. That is your measure of success.

MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CALLING
BY MEASURING SUCCESS NOT NUMBERS

3. Manage your Motives

1 Cor 4:5 “Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.”

When it comes to the call of God, motives really matter! In fact 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 spells out exactly why love as the only motive for ministry is critical:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)¹ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Here is is clear that:

- A great preacher or worship leader without a heart of love is just an annoying noise in heaven!
- Anointing power released in prophecy or healing counts for nothing if not done in love!

- A sacrificial life of hardship but without love gains nothing!

Only love for Jesus and his people make your calling effective.

ONE QUESTION TO PONDER:

Consider the fact that God has a call upon your life:

- What does God expect of you versus what you expect of yourself or others expect of you?
- If obedience to that calling is the measure of success, how successful are you?
- Are you walking out the calling for the sake of love for Jesus or because of popularity, duty or financial reward?

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

[p](#)

