

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP99

Are you a Carer (Shepherd)

10 Questions to ask yourself as a leader

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(Dudley Daniel “Leading the Church” 1989, Chapter 1 - Biblical Leadership)

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ARE YOU A CARER? (A Shepherd)

*1 Peter 5:2 (NIV) “Be **shepherds** of God's flock that is under your **care**, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to **serve**”*

1. What is a Shepherd?

Simply put, one who cares for sheep.

We didn't get to choose our animal type - would have preferred lion or elephant

- But the Bible is clear that God sees us as the sheep of His pasture
- And sheep need a shepherd

2. Are you moved with compassion when you see the sheep facing life's problems?

This is the real test - to look at the sheep with COMPASSION and not IRRITATION. Compassion should be a primary motivation in the heart of a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 (NIV) "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

- Do you encourage?
- Admonish?
- Pray for?
- Visit?
- Rejoice with?
- Weep with?
- Bear their burden? Etc.

3. Shepherding demands serving, as well as ruling.

*1 Pet. 5:2,3 "...**serving** as overseers – not because you must but because you are willing ... **eager to serve**; not lording it over those entrusted to you ..."*

Good shepherds know when each is required. And even our ruling or exercising of authority should be a form of serving.

4. One of the key principles of leadership is a willingness to be a servant.

2 Corinthians 6:3-4 (NIV)³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way"

Paul had such a strong sense that to be a biblical leader meant to be a servant.

A shepherd is a serving role that was often left to the youngest or the lowest - as in the case of David

5. We must always maintain a servant attitude, even when our 'Team' is large, and we are leading it.

*Matthew 23:11-12 (NIV)*¹¹ *The greatest among you will be your servant.* ¹²*For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

We never outgrow the role of a shepherd which is motivated by a servant's heart. In fact the larger your team or organization grows the more of a servant you should become.

6. All of us will be given opportunities by God which we can choose to avoid or to be trained by.

Sometimes they will be very menial and mundane tasks.

Examples:

- David—harp player, shepherd
- Joseph—slave, prisoner
- Moses—shepherd in the wilderness
- Elisha—attending to Elijah
- Samuel—serving Eli in the temple

When we are found faithful and trustworthy, then greater responsibility and privilege follows.

*Luke 16:10-12 (NIV)*¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

CHALLENGE:

Are you a CARER? Do you carry the servant heart of a caring shepherd?

PERSONAL: Find it easy to become consumed with the pressure of sermon preparation and the busyness of church business. It is easy to forget that we are primarily called to be shepherds. And as shepherds to love God's people as an act of loving God.

*John 21:16 (NIV)*¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

One of the greatest ways we can express our love for Jesus is by passionately loving his precious sheep.

QUESTIONS:

1. Take a moment and reflect - does your life reflect the heart of a loving shepherd?
2. In what ways do you become distracted from caring for people?
3. What can you adjust in your attitude or daily routines to make shepherding more of a central focus of your life?

Next week: Are you a FAITH PERSON?

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