

Elements



Week 5 - Leadership

March 10, 2024

Acts 6:1-7 - *“Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”*

Portraits of Leadership

Jesus (Acts 1:1-11)

- Jesus models Godliness and an understanding of the Father’s will.
- Instructing and teaching others.
- Encouraging the weak.
- Jesus knows, walks in, and speaks God’s will - and pushes others in that direction.

Peter (Acts 3:1-4, 22)

- Primary character in the first half of Acts.
- Always putting his foot in his mouth.
- When someone needs to speak, it’s often Peter.
- Acts 2 - People are speaking in tongues, Peter speaks, brings Old Testament to them.

Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)

- Walking in the spirit of God.
- People are amazed by the Apostles’ commitment.
- They prioritized prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Priests & Rulers (Acts 5:17-42)

- Anti-portrait of leadership.
- They were constantly not doing what leaders should do.
- They’re seeing what God is doing, but they don’t want to admit it’s God.
- Led by jealousy and insecurity.
- Intimidation to create compliance.
- Afraid of public opinion.

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The Practice of Leadership

Steering *forward*

- Always out ahead.
- Develop a sensitivity of seeing how God is moving.
- Don't be swayed by potential distractions.

Speaking *up*

- There are times someone needs to say something.
- Issues need to be confronted, decisions need to be made.
- Peter was a good example of someone who spoke up.

Serving *with*

- We see this example with the Apostles.
- Leaders don't walk alone, they walk with others.
- Proverbs speaks to the importance of collective wisdom.
- We need each other so we can see the right things.
- Build trust, collaboration, teamwork.

Searching *within*

- If the priests & rules had paused to say "God show us your purpose here" and had hearts to hear, imagine how things would have been different.
- Ask God: How are my weaknesses hindering your movements?
- Always be in a state of self-reflection.

All leaders, whether elders, staff, or volunteers should be:

Our Plan for Leadership

Qualified

- Exod. 18:13-23, Acts 6:4, 1 Tim. 3:1-7.
- Godly leadership comes down to character.

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Called

- 1 Tim. 3:1, Acts 6:2-3.
- It's not just a desire to lead that is sufficient.
- You need to be qualified and called.
- The congregation needs to hold the leaders accountable to a Biblical standard.

Committed

- Commitment endures through time and hardship.
- Through the good, bad, joyous, challenging.
- Committed to Christ as we live this out.
- Paul says "imitate me, just as I imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1).

Coordinated

- Exod. 18:23.
- We all need to be working together, from the leadership all the way to the body.

Your Plan

What practical step will you take **today** to prioritize the element of leadership in your walk with Christ?