

Chosen to Lead: Divine Kingdom Leadership

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A sample of the opening pages

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Chapter 1

Foundational text: Matthew 23: 11-12 (King James Version) But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

The primary purpose of this topic is to provide Biblical principles and examples of how to lead in God's kingdom.

All leaders must understand why "servant leadership" is so vital to the furtherance of the body of Christ. It is important to understand what is meant by servant leaders. There are other Bible versions that use the term "slave" instead of "servant" in their translations. However, our research will focus on the word servant out of the King James Version of the Bible. There are too many folks on leadership teams that don't understand spiritual leadership, and one primary reason is because they're simply not spiritual. Quite frankly, some leaders are not being led by God's spirit. As God's chosen spirit-filled leaders, we are to serve with the right heart and attitude. These characteristics produce unity, peace, and progress. This means that the Pastor or Bishop is God's appointed vessel, and leaders that serve on his team must come under the authority and vision that God has given to the shepherd.

When focusing on the local church, God places vision and goals on the pastor's heart, by which God leads and directs him, and the church begins to develop, establish and multiply. In addition, the local church leadership must have a servant leadership mentality. This is a major model that Jesus exemplifies in the Bible and a primary reason that I'm focusing on this subject.

Divine leadership will also develop a culture of disciples trained by the servant model of Jesus Christ in the way that He served. However, it is of great importance that the pastor has a clear vision that is understood throughout the entire leadership team within his church. It is a true saying in scripture Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish." It is imperative that the people he places in leadership catch the pastor's vision and embrace the direction that God is leading them in. If leaders do not support the vision of the pastor in the local church, it

will create a barrier, and give place to the devil to cause major hindrances for the entire ministry. A lack of support for the pastor's vision slows the church's spiritual development process, morale, and motivation. The power of darkness prevents a strong, healthy church establishment. Division or ineffective leadership will allow the enemy to gain an edge in his pursuit of attacking the growth and health of the church or religious organization.

Additionally, it should serve to help them understand the importance of being a servant leader and in the space of one accord with the entire leadership team. Ephesians 4:3-6 Paul writes, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." A leader within the church should desire to find themselves within a solid-state of unity, as the foundation of the church builds." Unity is a must in the church on a continual basis to further the kingdom.

The Bible is clear on what happens in a divisive situation - "Romans 16:17 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Luke 11:17 "But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth."

Every leader chosen by God that has worked in the church will be judged by the Lord in how he or she handled responsibilities given to them within the Church of Christ. Effective kingdom leadership means placing a person that demonstrates being "led by the spirit of God" in the right role so that they are positioned to succeed in advancing and serving others in the kingdom.

CHAPTER 2

The Influence of Divine Kingdom Leadership

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A Chosen Instrument of Change

A person called to the ministry as a leader should understand that it takes enormous dedication to do the work of an ambassador in the kingdom. Candidates have to pass many tests before they are considered for positions of leadership in the church. Kingdom leaders cannot be self-sufficient. Spiritual leaders must be faithful to God's call to be His instrument of change. What does responsible leadership entail? Once you enter leadership, or promote a candidate into leadership, responsibility and accountability are vital. Frustrations will build-up until you want to throw in the towel. There will be times you want to quit, but if you endure, you realize who you are, and who you identify with. You will understand that leadership is a process. The people you serve are in process, but you, as the leader, are in process as well. Just because you made it to higher levels of leadership doesn't mean that God is done developing you.

Many times, God is focusing closely on His leaders, and you will catch more fiery trials than the people you serve. I believe this is how it should be. Why would you want to be led by someone

who has experienced less than you? I don't see how I could significantly learn from a person who hasn't exceeded my own experience level. If you are an accountable and responsible leader, change will take place with your followers. Participating in the ministry and or as ambassadors of the kingdom is about changing and transforming lives. As leaders, we must live what we read, teach, and preach. Change will occur when you teach people how to deal with the trials God sends them, and how to live a quality life with Jesus as the head and center of them. God humiliates Satan when he takes unfinished people and uses them to lift other unfinished people who spread the message of God's grace so that He gets every ounce of glory.

A major key to becoming an instrument of change is targeting the hearts of the people. "In personal ministry, no matter what the difficulty, the heart is always our target." If you are an effective leader, you will target the minds and the hearts of the people you are trying to influence.

Ask good questions when talking to people, peel back the layers of their lives. It's not enough to know people casually. Really get to know people so that you can determine where change is needed. There is a great foundational scripture about this in Hebrews 4:14-16, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

You must understand people deeply in order to speak the truth in love and produce change in their lives. When people begin to see themselves through God's word, you further your goal of driving them to repentance. You must pray that your words will expose negative things in their lives, and that their hearts will change to submit to God's word.

We encourage people by telling them what God's word means. We provide support, wisdom, and guidance so they can become biblically accountable, and we must model that accountability. Being an ambassador is not about attaining an elite status but serving with a humble heart. It is living in a humble, honest, redemptive community with others, loving as Christ has loved, and going beyond the casual to really know people. It is loving others enough to speak the truth to them, helping them to see themselves in the mirror of God's word."

There are three major requirements of the divine kingdom leader. Being called is the first. Next you must have a field of service, and then you must have a God-given message. Let's look at these three requirements in detail.

THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY PASTOR/SPIRITUAL LEADER:

Must Be Directly Called by God

Many Christians and non-Christians, have no idea about the calling of God in their lives. Many Christians believe the reason that they're saved, and born-again is due to some type of move they made; something that they did in order to come to Christ and receive him into their lives.

As for non-believers, there have been many occasions when I witnessed Christ to them, and they simply responded by saying, they were not ready to give their lives to Christ. One of the most important doctrines I've learned from the Bible is that of grace.

The Apostle Paul introduced the concept of grace during his ministry and wrote many of his New Testament letters to explain what the doctrine of "grace" is all about. You're probably wondering why I'm talking about grace when our current subject matter deals with being called directly by God. Without grace you cannot even begin to work for God's kingdom unless you have been born again and filled with His Holy Spirit. A major truth in the Bible is that when you do not have Christ's Spirit within, then you're none of His. The key here is that in order to even be in the discussion of working for God, you must be born into the kingdom of God. This is done through God's grace in deciding to redeem you. You whom He hath chosen before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 says, "For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that, not of yourselves, it is a gift. I want to emphasize "GIFT." This is what being "Chosen" is all about. As a matter of fact, Jesus put it this way, in John 6:44, "No man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me, draw him in." This is part of being directly CALLED to salvation. To further explore this subject, you must understand that when a person is adopted into God's family, the Lord will specifically place on their heart a vision or a burning desire to carry out a task in order to advance the kingdom. The scripture that I like to use is Philippians 2:12, 13 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do, of His good pleasure." As a born-again believer you should understand that your steps are ordered by God. He knows your end from the beginning. The Lord knows what your spiritual curriculum will be before you even start on your journey.

Many people are surprised by what they're doing in the kingdom, but we should all remember that God is never surprised. God is the one who placed that vision in your heart and prepares you through His spirit, the purpose that He has ordained for you. A great example of this is Joseph in the book of Genesis. During the time that Joseph was sold by his brothers, falsely accused of rape, and cast into prison, God had him in the process of preparation for something greater. Had not God permitted Joseph to go through years of trials, he would never have been prepared for the highest office in the land under Pharaoh.

Must Endure the Trial

I have come across great leaders in my lifetime, and when I hear their stories about how God raised them up, I realize that sometimes God has to take you down before he raises you up. When I look at my own life, I see times when I was totally confused about why so many bad things were happening to me. At one point, I felt as if God didn't like me and that I was under His wrath due to the suffering that I was experiencing. I had a stretch of 6 or 7 years of just plain losing in everything I did. I had so many losses that I began to become bitter, depressed, and

miserable. I felt like a failure and started to believe that I was serving God for nothing. I was experiencing an acid test. After a stretch of years spent in unhappiness, losing money, being laid off jobs, experiencing health issues, and things just not going my way, even in the ministry, I felt useless in the kingdom. Somehow or other, God kept my mind focused, and I had enough motivation to continue searching scriptures until I found a release from everything that I had gone through in the previous 6 or 7 years.

A certain life-changing scripture that caught my attention during this time is found in 1 Peter 1:6, Peter writes, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." This is the point where I really came to personally understand extreme trials. This is the point where I believe that God opened my eyes. I began to understand the tribulations that I had to endure. The teaching in this scripture "IF NEED BE" means that if God sees fit, he may allow something to come upon a person to test their faith. I quickly realized that this was my situation. I went through so many manifold trials because they were needed to make me better, develop me and prepare me for the assignment and purpose that God has called me to fulfil.

The trying of our faith is precious, so much so that God permits challenging situations to happen so that they could develop into working out for my good. The Lord needed to mold me and shape me into the vessel that He ordained me to be. I was inspired by this teaching as I read because it helped me to understand how God works in the lives of his people. Once I understood my dilemma, I simply said, "Yes to your will Lord. I still trust you." Once you arrive at this point, God can use you specially to advance His kingdom.

If you don't fully understand His specific calling yet, it is helpful to continue to seek the Lord for direction. As you wait to hear from the Lord, I encourage you to understand that God knows how to reveal himself to you at the right place and at the right time. He will reveal His purpose for your life in a way that makes clear what he is calling you to do. This is what is called:

Direct Call

This direct call is when you have a deep passion, desire, heart, and direction to advance God's kingdom as your primary mission. This mission is to win souls to Christ. My direct call came from God getting my attention. God knows how to get anyone's attention so they can operate for his purpose.

Remember Ephesians 2:10, "We are His workmanship created unto good works where before God has ordained that we should walk in His ways."

The Lord knows how to lead us, he knows how to humble us, and he knows how to change our direction. Just ask Jonah. Jonah wanted to do his own thing and go his separate way, but God intervened and brought such a humbling upon Jonah that he had no choice but to yield to God's will. In the book of Acts, Saul experienced a similar situation on the road to Damascus. God blinded him and brought him to his knees in order to get his attention and to call him in as an

instrument in the Redeemer's hand.

Field of Service

Field of service is a gift that God will develop in you as you pray, study, and share the gospel with others. Field of service has a lot to do with a person's temperament. God gives everyone their own unique temperament because there's no one person who is exactly like another. The Lord will take a particular person and equip them through personal experiences and education to be used for His own benefit to advance His kingdom. As you work in the kingdom, attempting to win souls, and support different ministry opportunities, you will discover what gifts that God has given specially to you.

1 Corinthians 12:11 says that "God gives spiritual gifts to men, dividing severally as he will." God knows exactly who he wants to use, and for what particular task. It is the Lord that makes decisions about your field of service. How can you pursue a particular field of service if you don't have the gift to execute that ministry? God is the one that calls us into the ministry and equips us with the necessary gifts to fulfill the work that He has called us to.

You may have your own plan about what you ought to be doing, but as the Lord develops your life, goals will have to change. God will guide you to the place where your gift is to be used amongst His people.

End of sample

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