

LEADERSHIP 101 – PART V

“THE FOUNDATION FOR LEADERSHIP”

May 3-4, 2008

Ice Breaker

Which of the following quotes do you like the best or relate most to, and why?

“Don’t sell your integrity for any price.”

“Character is made in the small moments of our lives.”

“I’ve always tried to live my life by the simple rule: ‘Don’t do what you wouldn’t feel comfortable reading about in the newspapers the next day.’”

“A good name is more desirable than great riches.”

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

“There is but one use of power and it is to serve people.”

“It’s always easy to do right when you know ahead of time what you stand for.”

Introduction

During our study this week we shall be studying the downside of leadership. The fact is that we have an enemy and he will always attack those who are in places of influence. Leadership will come with temptations in three main areas. We are going to be tested on our level of maturity especially by pressure from our culture for instant gratification. One of the ways we grow into maturity is through delayed gratification. Our integrity is also going to be tested, especially during our moments of success. Another area of testing is that of our priorities. Prosperity and possessions both measure our priorities. How are we doing in these areas? This is the focus of our study this week.

Worship Thought

Read these verses together and meditate on the promises. Take time to thank God for who He is to us. **Isaiah 40:28-31**, “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

This Week’s Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 11:1, “Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”

Life Example

Abraham Lincoln once stated, “When I lay down the reins of this administration, I want to have one friend left. And that friend is inside myself.” You could almost say that Lincoln’s integrity was his best friend while he was in office, because he was criticized so viciously. According to Donald Phillips:

“Abraham Lincoln was slandered, libeled and hated perhaps more intensely than any man ever to run for the nation’s highest office...He was publicly called just about every name imaginable by the press of the day. Severe and unjust criticism did not subside after Lincoln took the oath of office, nor did it come only from Southern sympathizers. It came from within the Union itself, from Congress, from some factions with the Republican party, and initially, from within his own cabinet. As President, Lincoln learned that, no matter what he did, there were going to be people who would not be pleased.”

Through it all however, Lincoln remained a man of principle.

As Thomas Jefferson wisely said, “God grant that men of principle shall be our principal men.”

Key Passages

Matthew 3:16-4:11

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 18:13-27 and I Kings 3:5-28. What responsibilities did Moses have as leader of the Israelites? How did Moses and Solomon manage their responsibilities as leaders? What are the most difficult responsibilities of leading others?
- What is the difference between testing and tempting (James 1:2-4, 12-14, Deuteronomy 13:1-4, Matthew 4:1-11)? How was Jesus tested? How did He pass the test? Why and how does God test us? How do other people test leaders?
- How do you know if you or someone else is ready for leadership? Why do so many leaders fall from leadership? What are the pitfalls of leadership? How can leaders protect themselves from temptation?

Prayer/Ministry

Pray for one another that God will expand the influence of each person in a way that would build people up, and encourage them in their relationship with God. Pray that we would be people of integrity who others could trust and not worry about our motives. Pray for strength to stand firm in the tests, and withstand the temptations that come against us that want to rob us of our influence.

Going Deeper

Read the following verses and evaluate how you are doing as a leader:

Proverbs 27:21

Galatians 5:25-26

1 Peter 5:6

Matthew 6:19-24

1 Timothy 6:18-19

It is said that, “Reputation is what you are supposed to be, character is what you are.” How does your character and reputation line up? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there are areas in your life that need to be confessed or re-aligned with God’s desire and design for your life.

Next Week’s Memory Verse

Matthew 16:26, “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?”