

MEN'S
servants in training
S. I. T.

LEADERSHIP
lessons from those before us

FRIDAY & SATURDAY JANUARY 13-14

Speaker, Pastor Joel Owen

2012



LEARN. GROW. LEAD.

LEADERSHIP

lessons from those before us

Friday

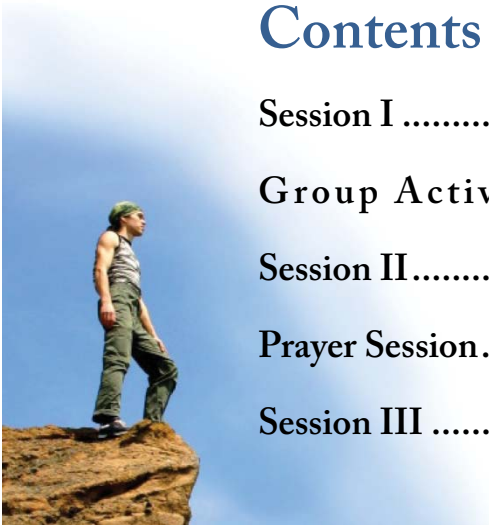
7 p.m. Dinner
7:45 Session 1
8:30 Activity
9:00 Session 2
9:45 Dismissal

Saturday

9 a.m. Breakfast
9:45 Prayer
10:00 Session 3
11:00 Dismissal

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Session I: Character and Leadership

Someone has said that leadership is influence. If that understanding is correct then every one of us has some degree of leadership. Our presence exerts an influence whether it be at home, at work, in the neighborhood, at church, or among our friends. Hopefully that influence is the influence of a Christian testimony. Christ calls us to be a light in a dark place (Matt.5:16). This is spiritual leadership in its most basic form.

So what kind of man makes a good leader? In this political year there is a lot of debate over this question. Many define good leadership in terms of style, looks, talent, personality, likeability, or methodology. For us, there is a Bible answer to the question about leadership. God defines leadership in terms of character, not personality or technique. We want to examine two leaders—one of whom God approved and one of whom God disapproved—and see by contrast what God considers to be good leadership.

I. A Leader Without Leadership

A. Ahab's Position (I Kings 16:29-33)

1. He was God's _____ (v.29)
2. He had a _____ of the _____ (v.30,33)
3. He took a _____ _____ (vv.31,32)

B. Ahab's Character (I Kings 18&21)

1. He is a _____ - _____ (18:17,18)
2. He is _____ ("sullen" 21:1-8)
3. He is _____ by his _____ ("vexed" 21:4)
4. He is a quitter ("lay down" v.4)
5. He is a _____ ("turned away his face" v.4)
6. He is _____ and _____ ("ate no food" v.4)

C. Ahab's Leadership

1. He has an impressive _____ (v.7a)
2. He is a _____ leader in the home (v.7b)
3. He is an _____ leader in the kingdom (v.8)

D. God's Evaluation (I Kings 21:17-26)

1. God holds Ahab _____ (vv.17-22)
2. God declares Ahab a _____ (vv.25,26)

II. A Leader With Influence

A. Abraham's Position (Gen.12:1-5)

1. He was not a _____ or a _____.

2. He was not a _____ (Gen.20:7)

3. He was simply a _____ and a _____ (12:5)

B. Abraham's Character (Gen.18:19)

1. He was a _____ ("his household after him") (cf. 24:26,27)

2. He lived a _____ ("doing righteousness and justice") (cf. 24:2,3)

3. His priority was God's _____ ("what He has spoken") (cf. 22:12)

C. Abraham's Leadership

1. The Lord relies on his _____ for the delivery of the Covenant (Gen.15:4)

2. The Lord confides in him as an _____ for the deliverance of others (Gen.18:17,20ff.)

D. God's Evaluation

1. Abraham is an enduring _____ to believers (Rom.4:16-25)

2. Abraham left a legacy of _____ to all men (Gen.12:3)

Application Questions:

1. Do we assume that the position or title we hold fulfills our leadership responsibilities or are we allowing God to create in us the character of a true leader?
2. Do we practice the kind of leadership that God recognizes as good?
3. Are there specific character issues that prevent us from being the leader God intends? Are we willing to confess them as sin and forsake this self-centeredness?

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Group Activities

HUMAN SCRABBLE: Teams will consist of a group of 10 members. Each person will have a sheet of paper to write one letter of the alphabet (this is their letter for the entire game). Team members will arrange themselves to spell as many words as possible within the given time frame. They will have a Wordsmith (judge) count every word spelled.

Scoring:

- 1pt for regular words;
- 5pts for biblical words (hope, ark, etc.)
- 10pts for all 10 letters used.

CREATIVE CAPTION: Divide your team in half (5 member team). For each picture shown, write down a possible, but funny caption. The funniest caption will win.

RING OF PAPER: Using a 8.5 x 11 piece of paper and a pair of scissors you and your team (5 members) must devise a way of cutting the sheet of paper so that it creates a ring without any breaks or joins (pieces of tape, paperclips, gum, etc.). This ring must be larger enough for you and your team members to step through. Each team member must contribute a cut in the paper.

If you get desperate, you may “buy” joins (pieces of tape), however, each piece of tape costs your team 100pts.

Scoring

- 1,000pts for your team stepping through the ring
- 200pts for first team done
- -100pts for each join

Session II: Learning and Leadership

Leadership is not necessarily something one undertakes when his growth is complete. We do not enter into life's responsibilities as a "finished product" but as a "work in progress." Leadership itself is a learning experience. God teaches and molds us through the responsibilities He gives us. In fact, a leader who cannot learn is a poor leader indeed. However, the challenge we face about learning is that it requires a great deal of humility. God may want to teach us how to be leaders through some unlikely sources, and we have to be ready to receive instruction.

Again, we want to take two Biblical examples of leaders by way of contrast. One was able to receive admonition and profit by it. The other refused instruction to his own destruction and that of his family.

I. A Leader Who Is Teachable

A. David's Challenging Situation

1. A "delayed" _____ (I Sam.16:13; 17:20)
2. A _____ - _____ lifestyle (I Sam.20:3)
3. A disrespectful _____ (I Sam.25:2-12)
4. A _____ warrior (25:13,21,22)

B. God's Providential Intervention

1. Abigail reminds him of his past _____
(25:28)
2. Abigail reminds him of his present _____
(25:29)
3. Abigail reminds him of his future _____
(25:30,31)

C. David's Spiritual Response

1. David recognizes the _____ of _____
(25:32)
2. David praises Abigail's _____
(25:33)
3. David is a _____ but he listens
to a _____ (25:33)
4. The future king humbly _____ her help
(25:35)
5. David tells Abigail he is taking her _____
(25:35)

D. The Example of Good Leadership

1. Strength manifested in _____
2. _____ - _____ for a greater cause

3. Setting personal problems in the _____

4. Spirit of _____ which builds respect
(James 3:17,18)

II. A Leader Who is Blind

A. The General Situation

1. The _____ of the early church
(Acts 4:34,35)

2. The example of _____ (Acts 4:36,37)

B. Ananias' Spiritual Conflict

1. The lust of the flesh—selfishly _____
“ministry”

2. The lust of the eyes—desire for personal
_____.

3. The pride of life—wanting _____ of
men

C. Ananias' Spiritual Failure

1. Failure to heed the Apostles' _____
(4:33)

2. Failure to profit by Barnabas' _____
(4:36)

3. Failure to _____ his own heart: "Satan filled your heart" (Acts 5:3)
4. Abdication of _____: corrupted his wife (5:2)
5. _____: expecting the Holy Spirit to overlook his sin (5:4,9)

D. Ananias' Tragic Legacy

1. A life is cut short (5:5)
2. A family is _____ (5:10)
3. A church is _____ (5:5,11)

Application Questions:

1. Are we too proud to listen to the best counselors God has provided for us—a wife, a parent, a pastor?
2. Can we recognize when someone has our best interests at heart even when they speak hard things?
3. Are we "man enough" to take criticism and profit by it, or are we foolish and strong willed?
4. Do we think we are smarter than God? Do we think we are the exception?

Session III: Decision Making and Leadership

We began our first session with the idea that Christ has called men to leadership. That leadership is the influence of our Christian character on those around us. Leadership is first and foremost about “being” not “doing.” It is about who we are, not about what we do.

But there is also an active component to leadership. It is not merely a passive influence alone. Active leadership is providing direction through the decisions we make.

Some men who are active decision makers at work abandon that role to the wife at home. They have trouble with decision making. They are passive, indecisive, uncertain. Their leadership in this area is lacking. We all need to take our leadership to the next level—to this practical side of life. Decision-making is a spiritual process that we can undertake with confidence if we understand things Biblically. We want to do a brief survey of this subject to help us stay on track.

I. The Importance of Decision Making

A. Decisions determine _____ (Psa.37:23)

1. A whole life may be traced in the _____
we make

- a. where to go to school
- b. where to live
- c. whom to marry
- d. where to worship

2. Decisions are the “steps” of our _____
life (Gal.5:16)

- a. all decisions are ultimately spiritual ones
- b. God holds us accountable for all our decisions

B. Decision making is _____ (Luke 7:6-9)

1. The one who makes the decisions has the

- a. at the office
- b. in the home

2. _____ automatically cedes the power to
another (Eph.5:23)

II. Challenges to Man's Role as Decision Maker

A. _____ challenges

- 1. Sensitivity to _____.
- 2. Political _____.

B. Christian _____.

- 1. _____ of 50/50 (I Cor.11:3)
- 2. Confusion over _____ before God
vs.earthly roles (I Tim.2:11-14)

III. Personal Reasons Men Avoid Decision Making

A. Because of the _____ / _____.

1. _____ of outcome
2. Lack of _____.
3. We must grow up! (Heb.11:27-29)

B. Because of _____.

1. Leadership takes _____.
2. Leadership can be _____ (I Sam.30:6)
3. We must be strong! (Josh.1:9)

C. Because of Lack of _____.

1. Inability to see the _____ (Jas.4:14)
2. Inability to _____ all we need to know now
3. We must know how to pray! (Jas.1:5-8)

IV. A Sound Basis for Decision Making

A. Identify the Scriptural _____ Involved

1. God's revealed _____ will
(10 Commandments)

2. Other Scriptural issues:

- a. righteous obligations
- b. fairness/justice
- c. mercy/kindness

B. Identify Scriptural _____.

1. _____ goals before material goals
(Matt.6:33)
2. Obedience before _____ (I
Sam.15:22b)
3. The _____ before the "urgent" (I Jn.2:17)
4. The _____ before outward
achievement (Micah 6:8)

C. Identify _____ Issues (Gen.24:27)

1. Gifting God has given you
2. Background and preparation
3. Personal feelings and inclinations

D. Discern God's Specific _____ (Eph.5:17)
(in addition to the Word and Prayer)

1. Open door
2. Leading of the Holy Spirit
3. Counsel

Application Questions:

1. Am I abdicating leadership in any area of my life by failing to make the proper decisions?
2. Am I willing to do the work necessary to become a man who is practiced at making Godly decisions?
3. Am I a man of prayer or do I simply have confidence in my own ability to make the right choices for my life?
4. Do I know how to walk in the Spirit?