

"Three Essentials for Leading Like Jesus"

Leadership Series #1 – "Leading like Jesus"

Luke 6:45 (NLT) — 45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from **what is in your heart**.

I. Today we are going to begin a journey into the heart.

A. The single most important thing that I can do to help you succeed in your serving the Lord is to prepare your HEART for ministry.

1. One of my primary functions as a Pastor is to help you discover your gifts and disciple you to grow into the fullness of God's calling on your life

2. In any body of believers, and in life in general.

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT) — 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.**

B. The reason why we are going into the heart is because God wants to bring out those things that hinder your ability to be used of Him.

1. He wants to deal with the HIDDEN ATTITUDES and issues of the heart that cause you to fail or be less effective.

C. So, today we journey into the heart.

1. We will look at attitudes that hinder and qualities that help you succeed.

2. The Holy Spirit may very well put His finger on something during these next few sessions...

3. When He does, deal with them

4. God wants you to be usable... a vessel of honor used for His purposes.

5. If you cooperate, He will thrust you forth in the most exciting adventure of your life...

6. ...Serving the King of Kings and fulfilling your destiny.

II. Before we begin, let me ask you a question which was posed to a group of Mission leaders.

D. Several years ago a group of mission leaders from a leading mission sending agencies gathered together to discuss what it was going to take to complete the great commission given by our Lord.

1. They looked at who had been reached with the gospel,
2. How many still needed to hear.
3. How many needed the bible translated into their language.

E. How many missionaries were in the field,

1. How many more were needed to complete the task...
2. It was apparent that more laborers were needed to go into the harvest fields to preach, teach, and evangelize and disciple.
3. The need for more laborers is overwhelming.

F. These mission leaders began to compile a list of the most important qualities or talent needed to be successful in the mission field.

G. What do you think was the number one quality they were looking for in a mission candidate?

1. Before education
2. Before training
3. Before life experience
4. The conclusion that was given was a **SERVANTS HEART!**
5. Before all other skills and abilities, was the need for people with the heart of a servant.
6. As Jesus said...

Mark 9:34–35 (NLT) — 34 But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. **35** He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

H. It's not the world's way of doing things...

1. Great ones in the eyes of this world usually are those who have kicked, and scratched, and fought their way to the top.

2. They have stepped on people to climb over them,

3. and once they have arrived, they sit as kings lording it over the peasants.

I. This is not the Lord's way, the first shall be last, and the servant, master of all.

1. The only way a person can find this path is to journey into the heart and get the world's ways out, so God's ways have room to move in.

J. So, lets begin our journey into the heart and see where it leads us...

III. Introduction Ecclesiastes 1:3,12-17

Ecclesiastes 1:3 (NLT) — 3 What do people get for all their hard work under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3 (NIV84) — 3 What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:12–17 (NLT) — 12 I, the Teacher, was king of Israel, and I lived in Jerusalem. **13** I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom everything being done under heaven. I soon discovered that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. **14** I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind. **15** What is wrong cannot be made right. What is missing cannot be recovered. **16** I said to myself, "Look, I am wiser than any of the kings who ruled in Jerusalem before me. I have greater wisdom and knowledge than any of them." **17** So I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind.

II. The Preacher "who is he?"

A. Solomon is the preacher (Eccl.1:1)

1. He was the richest, wisest, and one of the most influential kings in Israel's history

2. He brought Israel into its golden age

B. Solomon set out to understand and seek out man's task on earth

1. He was searching for man's purpose on earth

2. He began by asking himself questions.

C. The beginning of wisdom is to ask the right questions.

1. Let's pause here for a moment and ask ourselves some important questions.

D. Why are you ALIVE today?

1. How Come you were born in this century?

E. Why are you HERE, in this community at this point in time?

F. What PURPOSE does God have for your life?

G. Do you realize that you could have been born in Sodom, 4000 yrs. Ago...

1. or in Egypt to a Jewish slave and found yourself wandering around the back of a desert for 40 years...
2. or born in Nazi Germany 85 years ago, being deluded by a madman
3. Why here and why now?

H. You have a specific destiny in God to fulfill

1. God created you with a special purpose in mind
2. He has an exact plan for you to fulfill
3. You were born in one of the most exciting times to be alive ever
4. We may very well be the generation that sees the return of the Lord Jesus
5. You were born in a country which enjoys great freedoms
6. You still have freedom to practice your faith and worship together without government interference

I. You must think about why you are alive today, and why you are here, right now?

J. After attempting to find fulfillment through work... Solomon said "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity"

1. **After attempting to fill his emptiness with education, or partying, or gaining wealth or material things or relationships...**
2. **"it's like grasping for the wind" it is all in vain**

K. Solomon's great conclusion

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (NLT) — 13 That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. **14** God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

1. **Solomon's grand conclusion:**
2. **FEAR** God, and
3. **KEEP** His commandments.
4. **In essence, serve God**

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT) — 8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **10** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

L. You and I are saved by God's GRACE... through FAITH

1. **Just a side note to remind everyone today that our salvation comes only through the grace of God**
2. **Grace is God's Riches At Christ's Expense**
3. **Lets never forget that He paid the price He did not owe... we received, what we did not deserve!**
4. **God help us to remember the gift of God's grace...**
5. **It's not about works of righteousness, it's about receiving the gift of righteousness**
6. **It's not about attaining to some level of perfection, it's about having the perfect and holy one living in me by faith**
7. **It's God's grace that saved me...**
8. **Through faith...**
9. **You must believe that when Jesus died, He died because of your personal sin**

10.It was your sin that drove the nails in that cross...

11.It was you sin that caused the perfect, innocent Son of God to suffer and die on that cross

12.It was your sin, and your inability to do anything about your sin, that put you in need of a Savior

13.And it is only by faith in Christ's finished work on the cross that you can be made righteous

14.Faith is the vehicle which reaches into the hand of God to receive what He freely offers

15.Is salvation cheap... no, it cost God everything...

16.Is it free? ... Yes, to all who believe

M. We have been saved by grace through faith... for we are His
WORKMANSHIP

- 1. You and I are the handiwork of God**
- 2. This is why it is so important to honor the differences in the body of Christ**
- 3. God loves variety, just look around**
- 4. We were created different by our wise Creator**
- 5. Be careful how you treat His workmanship**
- 6. Be careful to love and honor God's workmanship**
- 7. Don't despise the differences among us, honor them and embrace them**

N. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do **GOOD**
WORKS

- 1. There is a reason you are here and saved today**
- 2. God has a purpose for you... something for you to do**
- 3. You will never find true fulfillment until you have found the Lord in His fullness and then found your place of service in His kingdom...**

O. For some folks Christianity is dull and lifeless

1. Some folks say they are not getting anything out of the church
2. My response is what are you putting into the life of the church
3. Your fulfillment in this Christian life is dependent on what you are **GIVING** of yourself into the body
4. You will never gain, until you give
5. We were created to do good works... to bear fruit
6. In other words, our lives are suppose to make a difference in this world, particularly in this community, specifically in this body, especially in our families

P. If God wants to use us... that's what it means when it says, we are His workmanship... created for a purpose

Q. How can we find our purpose in God?

R. If God wants to use people to do something for Him, then what kind of people does He use?

S. What are the criteria that God looks for in people before He uses them?

1. Are there certain attitudes that God looks for in a person
2. Why is someone used mightily of the Lord to touch the lives of many people and someone else just flounders about, never really plugging into God's purpose for their lives?
3. Lets look at 3 characteristics of the kind of people God uses to fulfill His purposes

I. God uses people with an "Eternal** Perspective"**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NLT) — 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. **17** For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

A. God uses people who can see beyond this world and this lifetime

- 1. People who realize that “this is not it!”**
- 2. People who realize that all their material wealth which they gain is all going to burn someday**
- 3. People who realize that the only marriage that they will have in heaven is to the Lord, so they don't spend every waking moment pursuing relationships**
- 4. God uses people who realize that the only treasures that don't perish are those good works done unto the Lord for His glory.**
- 5. People who understand that this life is short compared to all of eternity**
- 6. The things of this world are passing away... so why pursue them?**
- 7. I'm about to turn 70. I keep looking at my life and asking myself, what I am doing that has eternal value?**
- 8. Am I giving myself to those things which will matter most in eternity?**
- 9. Am I using the time, talent and treasure He has placed in my stewardship to make a difference in this world that will affect eternity?**
- 10. God uses people with an eternal perspective**

John 4:34–38 (NLT) — 34 Then Jesus explained: **“My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.”** **35** You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. **The fields are already ripe for harvest.** **36** The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! **37** You know the saying, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true. **38** I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.”

11. When Jesus said “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work”.... He was saying that the thing which gives Him reason for living...

12. The thing which fills His life with meaning...

13. The most important thing in this life is to finish His work... these are the things which matter most in life

B. God uses people who have an eternal perspective...

- 1. They can see beyond this life and this world**
- 2. They can see into eternity, and know that what we do here does make a difference in eternity**

II. God uses "ELASTIC People"

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (NKJV) — 19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; **20** and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; **21** to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; **22** to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.** **23** Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

A. To the greater degree you are **ELASTIC**, the greater degree you will be used by God

1. Those who are willing to be what you need to be to those around you in order to reveal Christ
2. Be like a child to win the children
3. be friendly, to the unlovable, in order to win them
4. Elastic people are willing to allow God to direct them into any situation, no matter how uncomfortable it may be, in order to see people come to the knowledge of Jesus
5. Elastic people are willing to be stretched into uncomfortable, or unfamiliar situations for the sake of the gospel
6. Elastic people don't carry around with them a resume of their skills and talents before they consider whether they will put their hand to a task...
7. Elastic people see a need for someone to be touched with the gospel and find a way to fit in

B. Elastic people take what God has given them and use it for His glory and the gospel's sake

1. Stop and take an inventory of how you spend your time and money... What is being used for the Gospels sake?
2. Are you willing to be what you need to be,
3. are you willing to do what you need to do...
4. are you willing to allow God to direct you where He wants you to serve?... so that others can come to know the Lord.
5. Are you willing to be inconvenienced for the sake of the gospel?

C. But one thing I know, is God is always putting opportunities in front of us where we are going to be stretched...

1. Stretched out of our comfort zone
2. Out of our skills inventory

3. God is going to challenge us to rise up and trust Him and put our hand to the plow.

D. We are doing this because we see that there are hosts of people who don't know the Lord in the nations and in our community

1. Our desire is to do all we can to reach them somehow with the Gospel message.

E. I am asking everyone of you today to join in with what God is doing in the world today...

1. Be elastic..., have an eternal perspective
2. Be stretched into a role that you may never have thought you could do...
3. Sacrifice your time and your talent for the sake of the Gospel

F. God uses people with an eternal perspective

G. God uses people who are elastic

III. God uses "EVERYDAY People"

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (NLT) — 26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. **27** Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. **28** God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. **29** As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

A. God loves to take the base things...the lowly

1. God loves to use people who would be despised by the world's system
2. God loves to take no talent, uneducated, simple people and do great things through them.
3. God is not looking for super talented
4. You don't have to be good looking

5. you don't have to be super spiritual

6. You need to be just plain and simple,... simple enough to yield to God, and make your self available to Him

B. God has a great track record for using people who were weak, insignificant people...

1. Abraham he lied twice about his relationship with his wife in order to save his own skin

2. Moses argued with God at the burning bush with God telling him that he couldn't talk right and that God could not use him

3. David was an adulterer and a murderer and yet God used him mightily (this is especially for you who think that God can't use you because you fell away at one time or another)

4. The apostle Paul short, nearly blind & stuttered... He was a religious zealot killing Christians... yet God turned his life around and used Him for His great glory

5. God is not interested in your ability, just your AVAILABILITY

IV. In Closing

A. God uses common, everyday, people

B. God uses elastic people people who are willing to be stretched beyond their own capacities for God's divine purposes

C. God uses people with an eternal perspective

1. are you willing to be used for the Lord? or are you preoccupied with the things of this world

2. will you persevere until you tap into that place of ministry that God has ordained for you? or will you give up when you don't get the satisfaction that you thought you would from serving?

3. God has created you for good works, and He will help you to discover your destiny if you seek Him with all your heart and are available to Him.