

The Gift of Leadership

Date: 21 Mar 2021
Series: GIFTED
Week: 6
Text: Romans 12:6-8

Video

Mention death of the king and condolences with the amaZulu nation.

Well, we have reached the 6th and final week of this GIFTED series. Thank you and well done to everyone who has journeyed with us. Joined CityHill through this series.

Place on P14 to write notes for today's message.
P15 – fill in words for the mid-week video.

So far covered
Prophecy,
Mercy
Service
Encouragement
Teaching
Giving
... final one

*⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.
If your gift is ... if it is to lead, do it diligently;
Romans 12:6-8*

Out of interest – who of you have these in your Top 3? And if not – where do they appear on your list of 7?

No matter where they are – we are trying to understand them and strengthen them!

1. What is this gift?

Very interesting that Leadership is not No 1 on the list. Not the most NB gift – it is one of 7! How we are to exercise it – diligently.

Defn: Motivating others to work together to achieve a common purpose or goal (harmoniously)!

Look at some of those words:

a. Motivating:

Fear NB – Not motivating by fear or compulsion. The Gestapo in Nazi Germany motivated others but it was not the gift of leadership at work in a healthy way!

Reward – a godly leadership gift helps others to see what is possible – the rewards that they can have in this life, and more NB in the next one if we put in our best effort and strive to become the best that God has created us to be.

b. Others: gift of leadership is about helping others to soar and find their God-given potential. That is why godly leadership is not so much about a 'position' that I am selected for, but rather 'potential' that I can help unlock in others.

c. Together: When we use this gift well it helps move people from 'individualism' to functioning 'together'. Achieving common tasks and goals; We are better together. If you are a parent you are using this gift, if you have got any responsibilities at work or in a civic setting you have got a chance to use this gift.

Many of you are leaders in business – either your own, or those that are owned by others – but you have got an opportunity to move others from 'I' to 'we'!

d. Harmoniously: very NB.

When good people are promoted, everything is great, but when the bad are in charge, watch out! Proverbs 28:12

Perhaps my favourite synonym for the word 'leadership' is the word 'influence'. For many people leadership conjures up images of having to stand in front of large groups and get them to do something. But if the lense that we use is that leadership is INFLUENCE, then every one of us can engage with it.

Rachel – lead a ladies group for 20 years – when she did the survey – leadership came up in the bottom part of her list. She has never really viewed herself as this 'out front' leader, but she simply saw an opportunity to create safe space for ladies to come together and connect, and she has done an amazing job of 'influencing' as a result.

NB to note: This gift does not look the same in everybody. Depending on how it is paired with other gifts will make it look different.

eg encouragement + leadership

prophetic + leadership

mercy + leadership

(love the way Terran comments on this in the devotional book p 47)

Let the Holy Spirit undo healthy pictures of leadership in our minds:

Alpha Male dominating the pack (not sure what the female version of that is?!)

Not about control, hierarchy, manipulation or pushing others down. In fact Biblical leadership is pretty much the exact opposite of those things.

Which brings me to ...

2. Jesus is the only Perfect Leader - learn from Him.

a) He was courageous

Not afraid to stand up for truth and to take on the religious leaders of the day.

b) He was humble yet strong

Didn't fight to be first, tops, recognized or rewarded

c) He served His followers

Most visibly by washing their feet in John 13

d) He sacrificed

- o Next weekend Easter (mention Good Friday drive through)

His invitation:

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:29

3. Leadership is (critically) important - so lead

I have found this past year one of the most challenging years in which to lead.
From not being sure about what to do next a whole lot of the time to having
an experience of leadership that is so different to what I 'signed' up for.

I have at times felt both
Exhilarated and exhausted
Courageous and internally cowardly
Loved having more time with my family, and simultaneously missed doing the church
activities that we used to do.

I have felt the pressure and responsibilities of leadership more keenly than before
And also experienced more of God's grace than before.

If I am brutally honest, there have been a few times when I have thought – "I'm not
I've got what it takes!"

But whenever I have connected with the Father in prayer, I have felt His voice
of affirmation: Just keep going ... I've got you ... you're doing a good job ... I love
You.

What the world needs more than ever at this time is people who are connected to
the Father and are willing to keep going. Men and women who are committed to
using their God-given gifts - however possible - to lift others up and give them wings
to fly.

There are enough critical, cynical & self-centered people to go around.

What we need more of - is people of faith, who aren't afraid of big challenges because they see an even bigger God.

Leaders who influence others diligently,
Givers who give generously
Encouragers who strengthen others inspirationally
Mercy bringers who do so compassionately
Servers who serve selflessly
Enquirers who share knowledge humbly
And Perceivers who live fearlessly

(in case you missed it – that covers all 7 of the gifts that Romans 12 mentions!)

All of us – servants of the King - who love Jesus passionately!

We are reaching the end of the series, but hopefully only the beginning of our impact on the world!