

LIVING AND LEADING MOVEMENTS

Session 5

Part 1 - Bible study

Finishing well

Go directly to part 2:

Succession

FINISHING WELL

In the Christian life is not only how you start that matters. It is how you finish. No one knows exactly where **their** finishing line is. But one thing is certain, Christian leadership is not a 100m sprint - it is more like a marathon.

THE END

On the eve of Paul's death
he says:

I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4: 7-8a

Now there is in store for me
a crown of righteousness

DISCUSS

Buzz words:

- Fight
- Finish
- Keep

What do these words suggest about Christian leadership?

FINISHING BADLY

There is a scary statistic about Christian leadership. Only 10% of present leaders will finish well. This means that 90% will have a major blow out and will **not** be serving God into their old age. They started well, but did not finish strong!

With the 12 spies, how many of these gifted and called leaders finished well?

BIBLE QUIZ

Sort these leaders into the following groups:

- Finished badly
- Finished OK
- Finished well

Gideon - Deborah - Abraham
- John Baptist - Eli - David
- Manasseh - John Mark -
Samson - Judas - James -
Hezekiah - Caleb - Saul - Ruth
- Jehosophat - Solomon -
Elijah - Rahab - Uzziah
(Bible references in appendix 3)

THERE IS HOPE

2 Peter 1: 3

His divine power has given us **everything** we need for life and godliness

If this promise is true what does 'everything' mean?

All of God's power is at our disposal for life and godly leadership. Our problem is we sometimes remove ourselves from God's power and protection.

Worse than that, we

then walk straight into an
ambush!

AMBUSHES

Warning! Ambushes ahead. We are warned that the devil is “like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5: 8). With any lion in the wild you respect its strength and killer instinct. Only a fool would go head-to-head with a lion. But, this is sometimes what we do as leaders. We walk blindly into an ambush set by the enemy of our souls. And in doing so, we walk away from ‘His divine power’.

SEX

Ambushes in a (younger) leader's life.

“There is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1: 9). For millennia sex has been the downfall of many secular and Godly leaders e.g. David, Solomon and Samson. Sex is **still** the #1 ambush!

The ambush looks like this:

1. Little or no accountability in the leader's life. They are alone in ministry.

2. Ministering too closely with the opposite sex. Approximately 80% of men became sexually involved with women who they counselled.

3. All leaders think that it will never happen to them!

MONEY

One of the most misquoted verses is: “Money is the root of all evil”. We like this verse, especially if we are a poor student. However, it is the “Love of money”(1 Timothy 6: 10) that can become a root/source for the downfall of a leader - causing a “wandering from the faith”.

The ambush looks like this:
1. We let money rule us. As a leader it begins to dictate our vision, programs and

lifestyle.

2. We are no longer content with what we have and our greed causes us to chase the euro and the bigger salary.

3. We hold on too tightly to what we already have. We stop tithing and begin to grab the money, even if it is not ours!

PRAYER

Lord may we have ‘a long obedience in the same direction’. May we experience **your** “divine power” and stay under **your** protection. Help us to avoid the ambushes. By your grace may we finish well and receive your crown of righteousness. Amen.

LIVING AND LEADING MOVEMENTS

**Session 5
Part 2 - wokshop:
Succession**

**Go back to part 1:
Finishing well**

SUCCESSION

The true test of a leader's success is found in their successor i.e. the next leader who comes after them and carries on their leadership role. This does not happen by accident but rather is the result of servant leadership and a good succession plan. Do **you** want to succeed?

DIO

Apostle John writes to a church:

3 John: 9-10

“Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us.”

A leader who loves to be #1 doesn't associate with Godly leaders.

“So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us.”

He uses words as a weapon, tearing down rather than building up people.

“Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers.”

He is unfriendly and excludes others.

“He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.”

He is a bully and blocks

others from serving and leading.

AN UN-SUCCESSFUL LEADER

2 Corinthians 2: 12-13

Dio was not a team player and he was only interested in looking after #1. Yet he was a very influential leader in this church. He is an example of a bad Christian leader who does not want to succeed. He wanted to hold onto position and power for as long as possible.

EMPOWERMENT

Succession is the ultimate act of empowerment. It is when you hand over all your authority and power to your successor. You do not do this with a stranger but rather with someone you trust completely to carry on leading the movement.

“Empowering others requires giving away some of your authority and power. This is based on trust.”
- James Lawrence

SUCCESSION PLAN

How to make a succession plan.

1. Start early.

Within the first week of your new leadership appointment give some thought to whom you could pass your leadership role onto next. In team sports there are some players who only pass the ball when they are in trouble or when they have no other option. The result is a bad pass that usually sets their

team-mate up for failure. Passing on our leadership should be our first option not just when we are in trouble or tired of leading. We need to pass it on in a way that sets the new leader up for success.

Have you started yet?

2. DEVELOP MANY LEADERS

Selecting the right leader to take your place is very important. You want to choose the right one to succeed you. This means that there should be a pool of possible successors. Strong movements will have deep pools of emerging leaders. Rather than waiting until the month of leaving your present leadership position, begin to develop those around you. Now. Ideally, you want to choose

your successor from 2 or 3 potential leaders.

Make a list of those that you are developing.

3. SOMEONE BETTER

Look for someone better than yourself.

Are you comfortable with just having average people around you? Or do you look for talented people who are better than you? Secure leaders are happy to surround themselves with other great leaders. Chill, God does not expect you to be the best at everything. His Spirit has distributed gifts to

the body as “he determines” (1 Corinthians 12: 11). Good leadership teams are made up of many different people with gifting and talents spread throughout it. There is no super Star!

When your successor does even better than you, then you have truly succeeded e.g. Paul succeeding Barnabas (Acts 15: 40-41).

4. DON'T RUSH THE PROCESS

It took Moses 40 years to pass the leadership baton onto Joshua, so do not be in a hurry. For most of us we do not have the luxury of this many years to prepare our successor. At best we may only have a few months. Rather than rush the process maybe it is better to stay on an extra year/few months to ensure a good hand-over.

When is your hand-over date?

5. CLEAR AWAY THE LANDMINES

Where there are people there are problems and Christian leadership has more than its fair share of difficult people. Just look around the room!

The outgoing leader should try not to leave any **known** unresolved issues. Sometimes it is much easier to ignore them and leave them for the new leader. Leadership fatigue has set in and the departing leader just wants to move

on. If time does not allow for these problems to be solved the outgoing leader should at least inform the incoming leader where the land-mines are.

What issues could become land-mines?

PRAYER

Lord may we get excited about making other people successful. May we serve like John the Baptist and be happy to see others excel in leadership. Amen.