

Branches Part 6: Empowerment & Overcoming

- I. Tonight is Part 7 of our 8 part leadership series.
 - a. Let's recap...
 - i. Leadership is influence
 - ii. The goal of a good leader is to be like Jesus
 - iii. The first pillar of leadership is meekness
 - iv. The second pillar of leadership is integrity
 - v. The third pillar of leadership is vision
 - vi. The fourth pillar of leadership is attitude
 - b. Tonight I want to talk about the fifth and final pillar of leadership, empowering others.
 - i. Walter Lippman said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him, in other men, the conviction and will to carry on".
 - ii. Harvey Firestone said, "It is only as we develop others that we permanently _____."
- II. What is empowerment?
 - a. What empowerment is **not**...
 - i. It's not an organization built on personality or talent
 - ii. It's not a one-man show or a staff-driven organization
 - b. "Empowerment is the act of endowing someone with the knowledge, tools, motivation, and authority to continue the mission of the team."
 - i. It's "passing the ball" and allowing others to do what you're doing.
 - ii. Empowerment let's others play too.
 - c. In John 20:21 Jesus says, "... **As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.**"
 - i. Imagine where we would be today if Jesus hadn't empowered His disciples.
 - ii. His ministry didn't end with His death and resurrection. He empowered His disciples to carry it on.
 - d. He didn't stop there either. He told His disciples that they would do even _____ in John 14:12.
- III. How do we empower those we are leading?
 - a. Challenge others to _____.
 - i. They might not feel ready, but encourage them to take a risk.
 - ii. The act of stepping out is great on-the-job training if they have your support and commitment to them.
 - b. Be an _____.
 - i. Stand by their side through thick and thin.
 - ii. Give them lots of credit.
 - iii. Show appreciation

- iv. Be generous with _____.
- 1. Always commend a job well done.
- v. Be gracious when they fail.
- 1. It gives them permission to try new things and step out.
- c. Share what you have with them.
- i. Give away those “trade secrets” freely.
- ii. Give away what you’ve been taught.
- iii. Peter Marshall once said, “The measure of a life is not its duration, but its _____.”
- d. Prepare others on the team to lead.
- i. Leave a lasting legacy
- ii. If things fall apart when you leave, then you fell short as a leader.

IV. No one really makes it on their own.

- a. If you look closely at the life of any great leader, successful athlete, or entrepreneur you’ll find a strong system of support somewhere.
- i. Mentors
- ii. Encouraging family
- iii. Good friends
- 1. David had Samuel, Nathan, and Jonathan.
- 2. Moses ad his father-in law Jesse
- 3. The disciples had Jesus
- b. In our life, we should all have a _____.
- i. Keep growing and keep giving!

V. As we close out this series on leadership, I want to touch on some obstacles leaders face, as well as some things that will help us overcome those obstacles.

- a. In most cases it’s our _____, **not the obstacle**, that actually stops us from succeeding as a leader.
- i. What others see as a large wave coming to wipe us out, a good leader sees as an opportunity to go surfing.
- b. “Adversity in leadership is inevitable. The wise leader accepts this and views obstacles as the very things that will create strength and endurance.”
- c. The leader that succeeds faces the same amount of problems as the leader that fails.
- i. It’s how we deal with adversity that matters.

VI. Some common roadblocks for leaders.

- a. Fear
- i. Leaders face lots of fears
- 1. Failure

- 2. Rejection
- 3. Embarrassment
- ii. "Having fear is telling God that you are doubtful that He can take care of His assignment – that the plans He has revealed are in jeopardy."
- iii. Oswald Chambers once said, "The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear _____.
Whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."
 - 1. Fearing God leads to the realization that He is ultimately in control.
- iv. Ecclesiastes 12:13 says, "That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty."
- v. "God never promised that we would look good, be respected, or be considered credible when we step out for Him. We should be faithful to His work even at the risk of rejection, ridicule, or embarrassment."
 - 1. Job 13:15 says, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him."
- b. Lack
 - i. It's so easy to get focused on what we _____.
 - 1. Skills, finances, confidence, the right personality.
 - ii. God is able to fill in the gaps
 - iii. He is able to provide what we need to be a leader.
 - iv. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."
 - 1. "Our need is the _____ God desires to fill."
- c. _____
 - i. We all have tendencies that we need God's help to overcome.
 - 1. Laziness
 - 2. Apathy
 - 3. Jealousy
 - 4. Prejudice
 - 5. Lust
 - 6. Bitterness
 - ii. Take these weak spots to God and confront them head on.
 - 1. Ask God to free you from hindering tendencies.
 - iii. Don't just let God be your co-pilot. Give Him control completely!

VII. Overcoming attributes of a leader.

- a. Be steadfast

- i. Galatians 6:9 says, “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”
- ii. Stick with it even when you’re under attack and the outlook is grim.
- iii. Thomas Paine said, “... the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain to cheap, we _____ too lightly.”
- b. Be confident
 - i. “Nothing that happens to you catches God by surprise.”
 - ii. If God be for you, who can be against you?
- c. Be _____
 - i. Keep your eyes on the goal of becoming a servant leader.
 - ii. Keep your focus on God who is the “author and finisher” of our faith.
- d. Take _____
 - i. Teddy Roosevelt once said, “Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the grey twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.”

VIII.1st Peter 5:10 says, “In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.”

- a. Keep pressing on
- b. Watch what God does