



Week 10: Sowing Leadership... We will harvest faithfulness

The Bible is about a King and His Kingdom!

- **Leadership...**is the ability to **mobilize others to accomplish a common goal**. Successful leadership is **vision** combined with the **resolve**, **courage**, and **endurance** that it takes to accomplish the goal, to press the job until it is finished.
- The real question we're looking at is, **"What do kingdom leaders look like and how do they function in the kingdom?"**
 - They have **"skin in the game"**...they are **SERVANT leaders!**
 - "Servant leadership **starts with a vision** and **ends with a servant heart** that helps people **live according to that vision.**" ~ Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges, *The Servant Leader*
 - The Kingdom of God is the only Kingdom in which every citizen is designated a king. Their rulership is not over people, but in a specific area of gifting. This is why Jesus is referred to as the King of kings and Lord of lords. We are kings who serve the world with our God-given gift. **We serve our way into leadership.** This is what Jesus meant when he said, "The greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matt. 23: 11) The kingdom functions on the basis of servant leadership. ~ Dr. Myles Munroe
 - While the idea of servant leadership goes back at least two thousand years, the modern servant leadership movement was launched by **Robert K. Greenleaf** in 1970 with the publication of his classic essay, *The Servant as Leader*. It was in that essay that he coined the words "servant-leader" and "servant leadership." Greenleaf defined the servant-leader as follows:
 - **"The servant-leader is servant first.** It begins with the **natural feeling** that one wants to serve. Then **conscious choice** brings one to aspire to lead.
 - *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. **Use them well to serve one another.*** (1 Pet 4:10 NLT-SE)
 - *For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, **use your freedom to serve one another in love.*** (Gal 5:13 NLT-SE)
 - **True leaders** are willing to envision, embrace, and release change, as opposed to "managers," who typically focus on maintaining the status quo. You cannot be a leader and expect that everything will stay the same.
 - **True leaders...DON'T WAIT. They don't "pray for change," they initiate change!** The words you hear coming out of a leader's mouth sound more like, "Someone has to do something. So, I'm going to surrender my personal ambition to allow others to grow, to move forward. I'm confident that if they grow, I will grow with them."

- ⁵ *Trust in the Lord completely, And do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you and he will lead you in every decision you make.* ⁶ *Become intimate with him in whatever you do, and he will lead you wherever you go. Don't think for a moment that you know it all.* (Prov 3:5-6 PASSION)
- **True leaders...**know **character counts**. There is a huge difference between secular and spiritual leadership. Just look at the leadership traits required for both:
 - **Secular leaders** tend to promote: Intelligence, initiative, self-assurance, determination, visionary capacity, ability to influence, and ability to see the big picture.
 - **Spiritual leaders** will demonstrate traits like: Humility, holiness, hospitality, and being free from the love of money, as conditions for Christian leadership.
- **True leaders...**must be **ahead of the people**, but never out of sight. They know that **you can't do it alone**. You need (and want) a team, friends, or family to go with you on this journey.
 - Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, **holding up his hands**. So his hands held steady until sunset. (Ex 17:12 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus came to retrain mankind for Kingdom leadership**. He came to teach us how to think and act like God once again.
 - Jesus' overarching mission on earth was to reintroduce the Kingdom of God on earth to mankind. This implies that at one time it was here before. Christ did not bring a **new** Kingdom to earth, but an old, **original** Kingdom that had been lost (Gen 3:1-24).
 - The **Holy Spirit** was the vital link between man's dominion on earth and God's dominion in heaven. He revealed the will of God to man and provided wisdom and guidance so that man could carry out God's will on earth. In this original order of things, perfect harmony existed between God and man. There was unity between heaven and earth.
- **Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven**

The **Kingdom of God** on earth is God's rulership within the hearts and spirits of believers, and the **Kingdom of Heaven** is when that rulership impacts the human earthly environment. "On earth as it is in Heaven" (Matt 6:10) is the undeniable spiritual dynamic in the Kingdom of Heaven!

- In order to be **successful in the business world** you would. 1) define your goal, 2) develop a plan to achieve it, 3) gather the resources or training to accomplish the goal, 4) surround yourself with people who can help you get there, and 5) refuse to let obstacles stop or divert you.
- If we are encouraging leaders in a profession, a business, or politics, we could use the model above as a general plan for achieving success. Effective leaders mobilize others toward a stated goal. Yet, in the Kingdom of Heaven, there is but one stated goal...to **fulfill the will of the King**. The question we need to answer is, "**How can we know the will of the King?**" **Simple. The goal of the God is to extend His Kingdom in Heaven, on Earth.** When God became man (incarnation), a King came to Earth. Jesus did not come to Earth to establish a religion.

The purpose of Jesus was the restoration of kings to a kingdom. **The culmination of God's work is to get the influence of Heaven to Earth!**

- **REVIEW: What does a Kingdom look like? What do all kingdoms have in common?**

- **A King and Lord...**The King personifies the kingdom, representing its glory and nature. Authority flows from the king and the word of the king is supreme.
- **A Territory...**This is the domain over which the king exercises His authority. The territory, its resources and people are all personal property of the king. **The king by right owns all** and, therefore, is considered lord over all. *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.* (Psa 24:1 NLT-SE)
- **A Constitution...**The king has formed a **covenantal relationship** with his citizens and this constitution **expresses his mind and will** for his citizens and the kingdom. The constitution contains the documented words of the king (the Bible) and communicates the intent of the king for his people as well as containing the benefits and privileges of the kingdom.
- **A Citizenry...**These are **the people that live under the rule of the king**. Citizenship in a kingdom is not a right, but a privilege, and is a result of the king's choice. Only citizens have access to the benefits and privileges of a kingdom, as well as the favor of the king. The king is obligated to care for and protect all of his citizens. In fact, their welfare is a reflection on the king himself. **The number one goal of a citizen** in a kingdom is to submit to the king and remain in right standing with him. **This is called righteousness.** *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.* (Matt 6:33 NLT-SE)
- **Law...**The Law reveals the standards and principles established by the king which spell out how the kingdom will function. The laws of a kingdom are to be obeyed by all, including foreigners residing in it. **The laws guarantee access to the benefits of the king** and the kingdom and violations of kingdom law have a direct impact on our relationship with the king. The laws in a kingdom cannot be debated or changed by the citizens. Simply put, the word of the king is law in his kingdom. Rebellion against the law is rebellion against the king.
- **A Code of Ethics...**A Code of Ethics reflect the acceptable conduct of the citizens in the kingdom. This code includes moral standards, social relationships, personal conduct, attitude, attire, and the way one chooses to live life.
- **An Army...**The Army is the kingdom's system of securing its territory and protecting its citizens. In a kingdom the citizens do not fight in the army, but enjoy the protection of the army. This is why, in the Kingdom of God, the angels are called the host of heaven. **This word "host" means army and identifies the angels as the military component of the Kingdom of Heaven.** The Church, as Jesus established it, is not identified as an army but rather a citizenship, a family of sons, and a nation.
 - He loosed on them his fierce anger—all his fury, rage, and hostility. **He dispatched** against them a band of destroying angels. (Psa 78:49 NLT-SE)
 - ²⁰ Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones **who carry out his plans**, listening for each of his commands. ²¹ Yes, praise the Lord, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will! (Psa 103:20–21 NLT-SE)

- ⁴⁰ So will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ **The Son of Man will send his angels**, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13:39–42 ESV)
- **A Commonwealth...**This is the **economic system** of a kingdom guaranteeing each citizen equal access to financial security. The term commonwealth is used because the king desires that all his citizens share and benefit from the wealth of the kingdom. The kingdom's glory is in the happiness and health of its citizens.
 - ²² Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "That is why I tell you **not to worry** about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. (Luke 12:22–23 NLT-SE)
 - ³¹ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. ³² "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness **to give you the Kingdom**. (Luke 12:31–32 NLT-SE)
- **A Social Culture...**This is the environment created by the way the king and his citizens relate to each other. This is the cultural aspect that separates and distinguishes the kingdom from all others around it. **It is the culture that expresses the nature of the king**, through the lifestyle of his citizens.
- **Where, When and How to Sow Leadership into the Kingdom**
 - **Where to sow...**Look for opportunities for problem-**serving**, as well as, problem-**solving**. Remember, the best servant leaders **serve** their way into leadership roles.
 - **When to sow...**Pay close attention when you see **crisis, change, or transition**. Dial up your discernment of the spiritual environment around you. It's much easier to lead something or someone that's moving. **Movement** is an indicator that leadership is needed, so work off the premise that **God has been preparing you for this assignment** and go for it!
 - We are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]. (Eph 2:10 AMP)
 - **How to sow...**Lean in with **resolve, courage and endurance**. You're not sowing into something before God, but sowing on behalf of Him. He is truly at the center of all significant leadership efforts. True leadership is initiated with His **love**, seasoned with **grace and mercy**!
- **Get ready for a huge harvest of faithfulness!**
 - **Persistence Pays...**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. (Gal 6:9 NLT-SE)
 - **Lasting Fruit...**You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit. (John 15:16 NLT-SE)