

Session Seven: Lead Diligently

I) Introduction

1. Right now the Holy Spirit is calling men and women to give themselves to Jesus in a wholehearted way for the purpose of helping lead the body of Christ, both today and tomorrow. Taking today serious will ensure we are entrusted with more tomorrow!
2. **Matthew 25:1- 5** *"Then the Kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed they all slumbered and slept."*
 - a) The separation of the wise and foolish virgins is this, the foolish only took enough oil for today and the wise took enough oil for today and tomorrow. Jesus is looking for leaders who will take today serious, ensuring they will also take tomorrow seriously.

II) Leading With Diligence

1. When talking about the subject of leadership there is much that could and should be said, but at its core, leadership is about having diligence. Paul's challenge to the Romans that lead, is that they should do it with all diligence (**Romans 12:8**).
2. Diligence simply means that when things get difficult, we don't quit, or see quitting as a option.
3. This means that we spend time perfecting the gift that we've been given. Many people use their God given gifts in a sloppy way that doesn't honor Him and push for a "now" experience in the grace of God.
 - a) **1st Corinthians 15:58** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*
4. This present age is an age of work, labor and toil. But the age which is yet to come is an age of rest. We work now to rest later.
 - a) **Hebrews 4:11** *"Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience."*

III) 12 Characteristics Of A Diligent Leader

1. **They have a clear vision or a deep sense of purpose**
 - a) **Proverbs 29:18** *"Where there is no revelation (prophetic insight) the people cast off restraint..."*

"Seven Values Of A Forerunner"

- b) In order to effectively lead others you yourself must be compelled by an internal vision. Our vision must be personal and internal before we can make it external for others.

2. They Take Initiative To Act

- a) Leaders must take action. They must work hard to succeed. Lots of people have desire, but leaders translate desire into action. Leaders are willing to act today in light of tomorrow.
 - (i) **Proverbs 13:4** *"The soul of the lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich."*

3. They Take Risks

- a) It's difficult to steer a parked car, so leaders aren't those that stand idle, but are moving. Leaders experience fear like everyone else, but they don't let it bind them from leading strong and taking risks.

4. They Are Faithful In Small Things

- a) Many are waiting for "that" day while totally missing "today." What we must understand is that there are many "today's" that make up "that" day.
 - (i) **Matthew 25:21** *"His lord said to him, well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things..."*

5. They Have An Eternal Perspective

- a) Diligent leaders see the majority of their fruit in light of that which is eternal, not temporal. They work hard knowing that the fullness of their reward will be in the age which is yet to come.
 - (i) **Revelation 22:12** *"And behold I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to their work."*

6. They Preserver In Difficulty

- a) Diligent leaders are those that work through the difficulties that arise in leadership. Our goal in leadership is that we persist through the decades with steadfastness, not just in the moment.

7. They Do What Needs To Be Done

- a) Jesus is looking for leaders that will give what they have not what they don't have. They do what needs to be done, not what they always want to do. They are team players doing what's best for the whole.
 - (i) **2nd Corinthians 8:12** *"For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, not according to what he does not have."*

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8. They Have A Teachable Spirit

- a) Lots of people will lead if they can do it their way, but the mark of true leadership is that a person is willing to do whatever.
- b) Remaining teachable might be the most important quality of any accomplished or aspiring leader, but it's really rare.

9. They Serve For The Good Of Others

- a) Leaders are team players. Our leadership must be structured so that individuals are advancing even as the whole is advancing.

10. They Take Fewer Privileges

- a) Paul described Apostles as being first in spiritual authority, but last in the way that they were served.

- (i) **1st Corinthians 4:9-12** *“For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure...”*

- b) As our authority increases the New Testament promotes less privileges that we are to take.

11. They Refuse To Have A Control Spirit

- a) Good leaders must not be possessive about people Controlling people is destructive to both those that we are controlling and to the environment in which we lead.

12. They Are People After God’s Heart

- (i) **Jeremiah 3:5** *“For I will give you shepherds according to My own heart and they will feed you with wisdom and knowledge.”*

- b) The body of Christ is in need of lovers that lead, not leaders who sometimes love.

13. This message is a prophetic call from the heart of God to engage with Jesus in the arena of leadership “today”, not just “someday.”

14. In order to lead with Jesus tomorrow (have light/lamp) we must be faithful today (getting oil) through fellowship with the Holy Spirit by serving in the local Church.