

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP



*TWCC TEACHING HANDOUT –
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2017*

THE COST AND THE CHALLENGE OF EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

DANIEL 6:1-4; 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9



EXCELLENCE - "Let's Step It Up!" (A Review)

- **Daniel 6:1 – 4 (NKJV)** – “It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;² and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.³ Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because **an excellent spirit** was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.⁴ So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because **he was faithful**; nor was there any error or fault found in him.”
- **THE KEY TO PROMOTION:** We don't have to attend the “school of _____ knocks” in order to gain wisdom and find _____. **1 Corinthians 10:1-11** says that the lives of the Old Testament saints were recorded as examples for us. If we take the time to learn from their life stories – both the good and the bad – we can avoid some of the _____ that comes when learning through trial and error.
 - In the book of Daniel, we see that Daniel and his three Hebrew friends gained _____ in an evil, ungodly society.
 - Like his three friends, Daniel was _____ because he had an _____ spirit.
 - The phrase “excellent spirit” only appears in the book of Daniel, yet the concept can be found throughout the Bible. (By the way, this word *spirit* isn't talking about a part of someone's makeup, like spirit, soul, and body; it's referring to an _____.) Jesus often spoke of the importance of having an excellent spirit: “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” – **Luke 16:10**; This concept is also in a parable

- **AN “EXCELLENCE SPIRIT” (DEFINED):** (1) A Humble _____ like Christ; [Major Characteristics of a Christ-like Attitude = *Selfless*, *Submissive* and *Secure*] (2) **Anointing** In and Upon You In Your Acts and Deeds of Service and (3) _____ Faithfulness [Time, Talent and Treasure].

- **OTHER POINTS OF REVIEW:**

- *It is important to not despise small beginnings, small ministry or small things?* **Zechariah 4:10 NKJV** – “For who has despised the day of small things?...” [**Despise** – to look down on with contempt or aversion; to regard as negligible, worthless, or distasteful]
- **Though the temptation to give less than our best in there, God is calling all of us to be faithful!**
- We must give TWCC (our guests, members, attendees, our community, our city, etc) all we _____! **Our attitude today will solidify an excellent spirit inside of us and allow God to promote us to new places and new graces.**
- **Don't settle for less or the path of least resistance and take the limits off of God!**
- **Break the power of yesterday.** YOU MUST PUSH OFF YOUR PAST AND GET RID OF YOUR YESTERDAYS. If you don't dump all that baggage, you'll be hopelessly side-tracked.
- **Prepare for the Call, the Purpose and the Plan of God with EXCELLENCE!** Be an Excellent Minister and an Excellent Leader!

The COST and CHALLENGE of EXCELLENCE in LEADERSHIP

• THE COST OF EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP:

- **2 Timothy 1:8 (NKJV)** – “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but **share with me in the sufferings for the gospel** according to the power of God”
- IF YOU ARE GOING TO LEAD FOR CHRIST, IT’S NOT ALWAYS EASY AND IT WILL COST YOU SOMETHING TO FOLLOW HIM IN LEADERSHIP. Leadership always comes with a price and a cost associated with it. If there is not a price or if it doesn’t cost you anything then you are not leading something that really matters.
- The challenge of leadership is _____. Other people can’t pay the price for you. It costs you personally! It going to require something of you that many other people never consider giving.
- NEW LEVELS OF _____ REQUIRES NEW KINDS OF SACRIFICE. Yesterday’s sacrifice is not sufficient for today. Ultimately the COST for Excellence in Leadership is _____. Every day the cost for excellence in leadership is not comfortable, nor is it convenient. Yesterday’s sacrifice is insufficient for today or tomorrow. **1 Corinthians 15:51 (NKJV)** – “I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**”
- You can take a vacation from life, but you don’t get to take a vacation from being _____ to Christ. You can’t call time-out!
- **COST** = RESPONSIBILITY; LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE! *Winston Churchill said “Responsibility is the price of greatness”.* [Responsibility is defined as the quality or state of being responsible: such as moral, legal, or mental accountability; reliability; trustworthiness].
- Leaders say: I will be responsible to God and I will be responsible to others. Excellence in Leadership demonstrates a responsibility to others fulfilling the law of Christ. (**Galatians 6:2 NKJV**) AS A LEADER YOU GET TO BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN OTHERS ARE NOT.
- LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO _____; LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PEOPLE AND FOR PEOPLE WHO AT TIMES ARE **IRRESPONSIBLE**.
- **WHAT ARE WE (@ TWCC) SUPPOSE TO DO?** Create an environment where “lost people” get “Saved” and the “Saved” can “Serve”. We are not saved to sit, but we are saved to serve. [**REACH, RAISE, RELATE** and **REVOLUTIONIZE**]

• THE CHALLENGE OF EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP:

- **1 Samuel 12:23 (NKJV)** – “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should **sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.**” (The context of this Verse is they wanted a king, to be like the other nations; in spite of having many powerful and wonderful judges)
- Samuel continued to pray for them, even when they wanted something God didn’t choose for them. How does a leader sin? By ceasing to pray. Even it is an Usher or Greeter or Teacher – we sin when we don’t pray.
- EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH _____. Excellence in leadership takes the challenge to **PRAY** and **PRAY** continually.
- **Paul’s Example of Praying:** (1) In **Ephesians 1** he prays that they SEE _____; (2) In **Philippians 1** he prays that they will _____ BIGGER; (3) In **Colossians 1** he prays that they KNOW HIM _____. **1 Thessalonians 1:2 – 3 (NKJV)** – “²We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father”
- **Read John 9:4 (NKJV)**. LEADERS PRAY BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR THEY ARE IN. Like Jesus our Lord we must understand the time and urgency of the hour. We must work while we have a limited time to get things done for the Lord.
- **Read Ephesians 6:18 – 20 (NKJV)** There is an URGENCY and an OPPORTUNITY in prayer. We must be intentional and allow and enable God to use our prayers! **Leaders understand:** (1) The urgency of prayer (2) The opportunity of prayer (3) The progressive power of prayer and (4) The energy of prayer.

The Building Blocks of LEADERSHIP



• THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LEADERSHIP:

- **Laws That Excellent Leaders Must Learn:** Laws govern every aspect of our lives; they are perpetual. Regardless of whether we choose to obey them, we'd be foolish to act as if they were nonexistent. When it comes to leadership, ignorance of the law is no excuse for defying God's governing principles. Whether we believe them or not, and whether we like them or not, we are interacting with these laws constantly.
- **LAW #1: THE LAW OF _____.** A church or secular organization will grow only to the level of its leadership. (Ex.. King David vs King Saul). First, we must grow ourselves; then we can grow our people. We must provide both a **model** and a **motivation** for growth.
 - **Four (4) Different Responses to Growth: (Read Mark 4:14 – 20 NKJV):** (1) **People with no depth** (2) **People with no discipline** [those who grow only to the level of their emotions because of lack of discipline; when their feelings and excitement of church and living for God go away, so does their relationship with God. Why? They have no discipline.] (3) **People with no commitment** [those who grow only to the level of their circumstances because of a lack of commitment; those who grow to the level of their problems rather than to the size of their potential.] (4) **People who grow** [Jesus makes it clear that we must accept the challenge to keep changing for the better if we are to remain useful vessels for His purpose.]
- **LAW #2: THE LAW OF _____.** **Proverbs 11:1 (KJV)** – “A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.” Living a balanced life requires that we guard ourselves from extremes.
 - We can more successfully learn the art of balance by understanding the difference between a *season* and a *lifestyle*. Long-term neglect of any single area of life can lead to gradually emergent catastrophe. The Great Commission and the Great Commandment serve as balancing points for us, warning us not isolate ourselves from those we are called to REACH with Christ's love.
 - **Beware of these Four (4) Extremes:** (1) **Spiritual** Extremes [Fads] (2) **Personal** Extremes [Ex. Elijah **1 Kings 8 and 19**; Allow God to **replenish** you and **refresh** your heart for people to avoid emotional let-downs or exhaustion. God's reservoir never runs dry!] (3) **Theological** Extremes [Temptations to come up with something new] (4) **Organizational** Extremes – Tumultuous times come in leadership when you are pulled in several directions and don't know which way to go. As a leader, you must discover what God has called you to do, and stick with that. Stay focused, keep on course, and stick to the plan!
- **LAW #3: THE LAW OF _____.** **Mark 4:25 (NKJV)** – “For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.” If you're using what you have, you'll be blessed with more. One of our responsibilities as leaders is to use our gifts to inspire others to use theirs. Leadership requires that we encourage others to discover and use the gifts that God has given them for the good of the Kingdom, administering His grace in its various forms. Four guidelines to follow when teaching others how to use their gifts = (1) Declare others' **potential** (2) Declare the source of their **power** (3) Declare the need for **persistence** and (4) Declare the **promise**.
- **LAW #4: THE LAW OF AVERAGE.** (Reference the Parable of the Sower – **Mark 4**). Not all of your seeds will harvest and bear fruit, but KEEP SOWING! (Keep swinging!)
- **LAW #5: THE LAW OF INFLUENCE.** Leadership, by nature, is influence. The question you must ask yourself is, “How am I influencing people?” (Ex. Each of us carries around two buckets. In one bucket is water, in the other is gasoline. When we see a fire (a problem), we can either help put it out with the water, or further ignite it with gasoline. “Which bucket did you use?” will be the question asked when a (problem) arises. Did you put out fires or contribute to their spread?)
- **LAW #6: THE LAW OF SELF-FULFILLMENT.** This law simply states that people will change when it benefits them to do so. There are a few exceptions. A leader's job is to help people change for the right reasons. There are four ways to do this: (1) Give them vision - help them see it. (2) Give them value – help them feel it. (3) Give them importance – show them they need it. (4) Give them reward – help them understand that they'll be blessed by it.
- **LAW #7: THE LAW OF FAITH.** Faith in terms of leadership is not about having faith that God can use you, but rather having faith that God can use others. PEOPLE **LEAD** IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THEIR **FAITH** OR THEY **CONTROL** IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THEIR **FEAR**.
