

Servant Leadership

The Code, Week Seven

- JESUS FIRST
- MESSY MINISTRY
- PURPOSE DRIVEN
- AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY
- EVERYBODY BELONGS
- ANYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#7 SERVANT LEADERSHIP

We empower men and women to influence their culture with the gospel and change their world for good.

Wrong Motivation for Leadership Development... It's cool. It's a hot topic right now. When we talk about leadership, we get to talk about how to be successful, happy, and fulfilled.

Right Motivation for Leadership Development... The world is in trouble. The church has the answer (the gospel of Jesus Christ). Good leadership is necessary to organize the church on mission.

Acts 6:1-7 NIV

[1] In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. [2] So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. [3] Brothers and sisters, **choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them** [4] and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

[5] This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. [6] They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. [7] So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

THE KIND OF LEADERS WE NEED

We need leaders with trustworthy, Christlike character.

Character counts! Leadership is influence, and influence is always based on trust. The men in this passage were easily identifiable. They were trusted by the congregation.

We need leaders who are filled with God's Spirit.

That is, they stay close to Jesus and live under his Lordship. Great Christian leaders allow themselves to be influenced and empowered fully by the Holy Spirit.

We need leaders who grow in wisdom.

It's not about who knows the most. It's about who has the capacity to apply truth to present circumstances to solve the problems facing people.

We need leaders passionate about the cause of Christ.

What is "cause of Christ"? I used to think of it as sharing the gospel further, with more people, to get more people saved and keep them out of hell.

But Jesus' cause was all about extending the Kingdom of heaven here on earth.

Our causes are Kingdom causes. Spreading the good news, giving a cup of cold water in Jesus' name. Looking out for the least, the last, and the lost. Showing love through practical action to all of our neighbors. Caring for the poor, the immigrant, the refugee, the displaced and disenfranchised.

- Sometimes we need better systems to be put in place.
- Sometimes we need broken systems to be torn down.

Putting it all together...

The church is responsible for identifying, inviting, raising up, empowering, and equipping trustworthy, Spirit-filled people who will wisely and passionately organize God's people for the cause of Christ!

So let's get started! Who wants to lead?