

1: Introduction

Our name: revival – renewal. We're in the refreshing business. For ourselves and for those around us.

But I'm dissatisfied with where we're at. I want to always be dissatisfied with where we're at. We need to be part of a healthy church that is a growing, signs, wonders, miracles church.

And renewal, revival, needs leaders. It's too big for me, or any one of us.

Christ spent three years with his disciples training them for the role they'd have to do once He'd left. Paul trained Timothy and men in each new church he established, from among the people in each city.

2: Commission – Am I a leader?

2.1: Who's a leader?

What makes a natural leader?

- Visionary
- Responsibility
- Born

What makes a GODLY leader?

- Anointed
- A servant

Matt 20:25-28 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise

dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. [26] But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; [27] And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: [28] Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matt 23:8-12 But be not ye called Rabbi/Master: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. [9] And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. [10] Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. [11] But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. [12] And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

A leader, by definition is out in front. But in the Bible that does not mean they are a master. They've just got somewhere a little before the next person!

So let's redefine a leader not as this visionary 'gladiator', but a leader is anyone who is just one day older or one experience wiser or one step further ahead of the next person!!

- A parent – has been a teenager
- A teenager – has been a child
- A saint – has been a sinner
- The healed – has been sick

Leaders are made by every decision that they make. A Godly leader chooses:

- Good over evil
- Holiness over pleasures of sin
- To encourage rather than put down
- Wisdom over foolishness

A Godly leader is anointed and they are a servant.

The trouble with self-made men is that they tend to worship their creator.

2.2: Reflections on bible leaders:

Examples:

- Moses: Ill-equipped
- Peter: Foot-in-mouth
- Paul: Wrote well, spoke poorly
- Rahab: A prostitute who led her family to deliverance
- Deborah: A judge

Not much competition! There are definitely out-in-front leadership roles. But EVERYONE here is a leader to someone!

2.3: Attributes of a Godly leader

Godly leaders are:

- Aware of their strengths **and** their weaknesses. Remember that often our strengths are also our

weaknesses. If you're a good speaker, you might speak too much! If you're a teacher you might be so caught up in learning that you don't care for people.

- Motivated – self-starters; acknowledging their calling in whatever role. *Rom 12:6-11 (NLT) In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. [7] If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. [8] If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. [9] Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. [10] Love each other with genuine affection,* and take delight in honoring each other. [11] Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*
- Thick-skinned – Our mission is to please God, not man. Even God can't please everyone! *1 Thess 2:4 We have been approved by God to speak the gospel, not to please men but to please God.*
- Sensible. Treat both criticism and praise like chewing gum. Chew it over, check it out, spit it out.
- Persuade and influence rather than direct and demand *2 Tim 2:24-25 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach,*

patient,[25] in humility correcting those who are in opposition

- A shepherd caring and protecting God's people. Be a shepherd at the head leading a flock, not a sheep-dog at the back nipping at the heels. 'Come with me where I'm going'.
- Focussed: *Luke 2:49 'I must be about my father's business'*. If Satan can't get you to do the wrong thing, he'll keep you too busy to do the right or valuable thing.
- Part of a team: Work with a small group, not alone. Christ always sent His disciples out in twos. Paul always had a companion. Got an idea? Build a team.

Practice what you preach, or better still, don't preach, just practice.

Blessed are they that can laugh at themselves – they will never cease to be amused.

Friends don't let friends go to hell.

So I want to challenge everyone, whether you think you're a leader or not to consider/realise/remember that:

- You're anointed
- You have been in places that other's haven't: certainly in salvation, and also in the particular things that you have overcome.
- Everyone is a leader to someone!

3: Considerations: 'Selah' for leaders

What does it mean to be a Godly leader? What's our calling? Our role? Our purpose? Things to think about:

3.1: A church is not one man's ministry

Godly leaders don't lord it over people.

Church governance is not modelled on a kingdom (except with Christ as the head) or a government or a business.

Rom 12:4-8 (NLT) Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, [5] so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.[6] In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy...

1 Cor 12:4-11 (NKJV) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.[5] There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.[6] And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.[7] But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:[8] for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, [10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.[11] But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The apostles went out in pairs; We must obey God rather than (natural) men (Acts 5:29); We are to be subject one to the other:

1 Pet 5:5 (NLT) In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favours the humble."

Godly leaders don't demand submission to them, but lead people to submission to God.

3.2: God can use our small talents for big things

John 6; Mark 5: The feeding of the five thousand, followed by the storm on the sea of Galilee.

Phillip gets tested by Christ 'What shall we do' (Christ knew what He was going to do). Phillip's response is 'there are too many'. Andrew's is 'we have too little'.

- What have I decided is too big for God to accomplish, or too small for God to be able to use?
- Don't measure a challenge by your abilities
- We can always find a reason for not doing something: 'Once I've got ...; When I've got more ...' then I'll be able to ... We always have enough to start with: faith as a mustard seed.
- Notice that Christ didn't do the big flamboyant thing and make the five loaves into some giant ones that everyone could share: He just quietly kept breaking more off.

- A lesson from this story: God starts with whatever little we can bring to him, and provides the answer and a whole lot more left over.

The Lord doesn't always choose men for what they are, but for what they can become.

Mark 6:50-52 During the storm they did not consider the miracle of the loaves and fishes. They just got worried again.

- Every encounter with a problem or challenge can bring an increase *James 1:2-4 (perfect and entire, lacking nothing)*
- God uses impossible situations and situations for His glory

3.3: Expect temptation!

Matt 4 Christ's temptations:

Luke 4:1-13 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, [2] Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

[3] And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. [4] And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

[5] And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. [6] And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and

the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. [7] If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

[8] And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

[9] And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: [10] For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

[11] And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. [12] And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

[13] And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Notice that the temptations happened after a 'mountaintop' experience – Christ's baptism where God spoke from heaven 'This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased – who gives me great joy'.

You have a 'mountain top' experience? Temptations are likely to follow soon.

At the end, Satan left Christ – but just for a season. Temptations always going to come back, maybe in a different disguise. Being forewarned is forearmed.

3.3.1: Lust of the flesh: Temptation to go the easy way (maturity)

- Immaturity needs satisfaction NOW; wants fun NOW; No work, only pleasure
- Maturity is when you appreciate you need to work to eat; that there's a time for fun and a time for serious; that worthwhile things need effort
- The temptation: 'You're hungry - use your abilities for your own needs'. Christ has given us our abilities primarily for the service of others, not ourselves
- Satan will also tempt us in our strengths so that we think we've done it and glorify ourselves rather than God.
- And always the temptation to fix it ourselves and deny God the opportunity to show His strength.

3.3.2: Lust of the eyes: Temptation to fit your spiritual life around your normal life (integrity)

- *Matt 6:24* 'You can't serve God and mammon'. Not 'you shouldn't', but 'you can't'!
- In each temptation, Christ responded with scripture. KNOW YOUR SCRIPTURE!
- *Psalms 119:11 (NLT)* *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* Hide the Word in your heart, and the Spirit can bring it to your remembrance when you need it.
- Integrity is being the same person in private and in public - authentic

Character is doing what's right when no one is looking.

3.3.3: Pride of life: Third temptation: About priorities

- How do you handle praise?
- Can we pray for humility? Meekness is a gift, but humility is a choice. *2 Chron 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
- Easy to be proud – to think you've done a good job. Especially when you have!! Not a helpful attribute for a leader.
- Celebrities do the spectacular; Leaders do the sacrificial

When you resist a temptation, you are turning that temptation from a stumbling block into a stepping stone!

3.4: Leaders aren't perfect

The best leaders are those that have been through struggle and strife and have learnt to trust God for deliverance. They bring wisdom and command respect because of their experience.

When you're going through a problem, don't be shattered by it; don't think 'how can God let this happen to me'; but rather 'how will God show His strength this time'. Problems can kill, or problems can strengthen. It's actually your choice as to what they do.

Leaders aren't perfect – just more experienced. If leaders had to be perfect, no-one would qualify.

No-one can claim skill in all gifts and ministries or be a one-man band. God needs everyone to be working together.

3.5: Never stop growing as a leader

Meditate – Listen to God continually. Prayer should be a conversation, not a monologue.

Recharge – Spend time away from your service. God gave the Israelites a day a week!

Getting out of a bad rut involves getting into a good one.

4: Contributions of leaders – lessons for leaders

If we recognise a calling, how do we grow as a leader?
What do we do as a leader..

4.1: Lead by example

1 Pet 5:2-3 (NLT) Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. [3] Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.

1 Tim 4:12 (NLT) Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

Wisdom has two parts: Having a lot to say; And not saying it. (Better to do it!)

4.2: Challenge people to their greater purpose

Heb 10:24 Provoke to love and good works

It's too easy to coast! If you're coasting, you're going downhill – that's the only direction you can coast. It takes work to go uphill – can't coast uphill!

Phillip and Andrew were challenged by Christ about feeding the five thousand. The rich man is challenged in Matt 19:21.

Think about someone that you're a leader to, or could be a leader to. Someone who has not experienced something that you have experienced – like salvation; victory over cigarettes; a healing; a provision.

- Pray for them
- Consider how you could encourage them
- Make a suggestion to them 'Have you thought about...'

Some things have to be believed to be seen.

4.3: Affirm people in their potential

A very important part of parenting is affirming your children. Helping them to understand that they aren't hopeless and the things that they should focus on.

Christ has affirmed us:

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and

greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Christ's prayer in John 17 is a wonderfully intimate record of Christ affirming both the apostles and looking forward to us in what God is calling us to do.

Paul's encouragement to us: *Rom 8:37 More than conquerors.*

Paul was often encouraging at the start of his letters about the good things that he had heard about the saint's faith, joy, works or patience. Even when he then went on to correct them.

4.4: Give responsibility

God took Christ back to heaven, knowing that the responsibility for establishing and building and growing His church could only be taken on by men – us!

He trusts me? Is that wise?

Giving responsibility creates the potential for failure or slipping up. That's OK. We all seem to have to learn from our own mistakes.

4.5: Provide honest feedback

Prov 24:26 (NLT) An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship.

Correct and instruct. Point out the issue and show the right way. Christ did that after the transfiguration when the disciples couldn't heal the demon-possessed boy. He explained the problem and demonstrated faith.

4.6: Pray for people

John 17 Christ's prayer for his disciples and all of us who would follow

A great example for us.

5: Summary

- We've talked about leadership so that we have a shared understanding of what Godly leadership is, and what we should expect of each other
- We should all recognise ourselves as leaders in some capacity
- Being a leader is not about building wealth or success or a reputation. It's about building people – souls. It's souls that will last forever. Build things that will last forever!

People are not your problem, they are your purpose.

Convert your wealth now, into wealth of the future. People's souls.

- Godly leadership is about:
 - Love
 - Generosity
 - Service
 - Maturity
 - Investment in the things that matter

Don't pray for a light load, pray for a strong back.

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

But let's not just talk about it – let's do it!