Leadership - Part 2 Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

A. Review.

B. Forecast: how to be a leader, principles for leadership over a band of men, and the ethics of aspiring to leadership. (Luke 22:16)

II. How to be a leader.

A. Recommendation for reference: J. Oswald Sander's *A Spiritual Clinic*. He lists conditions for spiritual leadership.

1. He must not be immersed in detail, must not be petty or pompous, he must be a good picker of men, have the power of decision and be able to inspire people.

2. Circumstances, decisions, and weakest points all unveil a leader.

3. Leaders are made not by mere appointment - spiritual leaders do not seek place or position. (Jeremiah 45:5)

B. The mission is to train spiritual followers and trust that God will pick some leaders from these.

C. A person of spiritual influence must have the conviction that he is in the will of God, knows it and is enthusiastically carrying it out.

D. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)

1. Like the formula to Coke, the formula that goes into making us is totally unique and not replicated in another person.

2. The stars are set on a different frequency that creates a symphony - each contributing a different note. Each human contributes a different individual note to the symphony that God has created as well. (1 Corinthians 15; Job 38:7)

3. We are to discover God's purpose for us and carry it out to great conviction.

E. Every Christian should be a Christian layman. (Ephesians 2:10)

1. God put gifts in us to do unique things.

2. The gifts and the calling of God go together. God calls us to exercise the gifts given us. (Romans 11:29)

3. The exception is that once in a while God gives someone a shepherd's heart to exercise his gifts as pastors. (Jeremiah 3:15; 23:4)

a. God does not call all into full time service.

b. But to those he calls, it will be difficult not to follow God's calling.

F. Review:

1. It is essential to be in the center of God's will.

2. The goal is to evangelize and edify. The Christian's job is to get sinners into Christ and Christ into sinners.

III. Principles of leadership over a band of men.

A. When there is a task too big for one man others are needed to accomplish an objective.

B. Your efforts will be multiplied when you have help. (Leviticus 26:8; Deuteronomy 32:30)

C. The greater number of cross relationships within a group the more inefficient the productivity.

1. It is difficult to keep even a few happy.

2. All human beings have these needs: affection, acceptance, recognition, a sense of belonging and a sense of achievement - group members look to the leader to have these needs met.

3. If the needs are not met, a group member can become hostile.

D. Review: the key to leadership is conviction, to attain leadership one must use his gifts, and to accomplish a vision you need help.

IV. The ethics of aspiring to leadership.

A. Requirements for a successful leader.

1. He must be willing to lay down his life for his conviction.

2. He must be willing to lay down his life for those in his group.

a. The member must be willing to lay down his life for the conviction.

b. The member must be willing to lay down his life for the leader

c. The member must be willing to lay down his life for one another.

B. Where the proper spirit exists, other problems go out.

C. How you develop this spirit.

1. High morale is the result of the thoughtful concern that every need of every group member has been met.

2. This requires spending all the time necessary to meet group members needs. It is not a simple thing to lead a successful group. The leader pays a price.

3. This is done through "man-to-man" work.

4. You must continue in convictions and challenges to the group.

D. Among leaders chosen to emulate, vision is the most common characteristic between them.

V. Questions.

A. How do you analyze a situation impartially?

1. Ten scouts to the promised land gave Moses an exaggerated report. We must stick to the facts and not draw inferences.

2. We fail to correctly analyze because of expediency, social pressure or custom and legalism.

3. The Word of God must guide analysis - moral guidance.

Application questions.

1. What are the necessary steps in becoming a leader? Is one to become a leader for the sake of the position?

2. What stood out to you most about this message? Explain.

3. What leader would you choose to spend time with if you could choose any in history besides Christ? Why? What principles do you long to emulate and how can you go about emulating those principles in your own sphere?