

Mission and Teamwork

Paul Stanley

Introduction:

- A. The military is downsizing and this presents opportunities.
 - 1. Some are taking second careers.
 - 2. We need to adjust with this movement in order to keep our audience.
 - 3. Some businessmen need military men and women in their businesses.
 - 4. Many leaders start their testimony with their military experience.
 - 5. We need to challenge the military men in our sphere of influence.
 - 6. A man in Zimbabwe was recently challenged to go on staff full-time and he needs to see a vision he can give his life to.

I. I want to talk of teamwork in the context of mission.

- A. Teamwork is body life team.
 - 1. The history of the USA is individualistic.
 - 2. We interpret our Bible in terms of individuals.
 - 3. We see discipleship in terms of one on one but Africans see group development. (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - 4. We all have different kinds of gifts and abilities. (1 Corinthians 12)
 - a. God arranged us the way he wants us to be.
 - b. We are unique in our gifts.
 - c. We need to work together to make a significant impact. (Ephesians 4:4; 1 Peter 4)
 - d. Once my son and his family was stranded at Denver airport due to a big snow storm so I tried to drive there to get them.
 - 1. I failed and needed help just getting back to my home.
 - 2. I eventually got stuck and needed to walk back.
 - 3. At one point I had to go alone and fell into real trouble.

4. While I had my friend with me the going was much easier.

e. How often have you felt alone in ministry?

B. Why do we need teams?

1. We need each other because the task is great. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
2. Jonathan needed his armor bearer. (1 Samuel 14:6-7)
3. Paul needed partners.
4. Things are changing so fast today we need each other.
5. Our enemy is clever. (1 Peter 5:8)
6. When one falls it is usually due to isolation.
7. Teams provide a greater sense of satisfaction and fruitfulness.
8. Teams bring greeter decentralization possibility.
 - a. Teams are self-directed.
 - b. Teams reduce the need for overhead leadership.
 - c. Paul told Titus to appoint leaders who could lead.

C. What is a team?

1. A group of people that need each other in order to accomplish a goal.
2. When does a group become a team?
3. What would a group need to become a team? (The speaker gives people a few minutes to discuss this.)
4. Common trust in God and each other.
5. Common purpose.
6. Common enemy.
7. Knowledge of each other's gifts, etc.
8. Common love and communication.
9. A leader.
10. A plan and roles among the people.

11. Humility to defer to one another.
12. Common values.
13. A sense of being needed.
14. Commitment.
15. Time spent together.
16. Practice time together.
17. Prayer time together.
18. If we don't get to where we need each other in teamwork we will not achieve much.

D. The biblical illustration of teams is interesting.

1. Jesus chose his team with the purpose of training them.
 - a. Jesus did not need a team but he illustrated teamwork for us because he wanted to multiply disciples.
 - b. Were the women on Jesus' team equal partners?
 - c. I think they were equal but with different roles.
 - d. Jesus was thinking of the Great Commission.
 - e. After preparing the disciples Jesus went home. (John 17:4)
 - f. Jesus always worked in the context of mission and relationship.
 1. At first Jesus called his team to serve.
 2. Later he called them friends.
 3. He recruited them to a vision and a purpose.
2. Paul gathered a team to accomplish a task.
 - a. The elders form a team to oversee a church. (Titus 1)
 - b. They set the example. (Hebrews 13:7)
3. Short term teams. (Luke 10)
 - a. Adam and Eve were a team.
 - b. A married couple is a team.

4. Teams are built of individual parts. (Ephesians 4:16)
 - a. Christ is the head. (Colossians 1:16-18; John 15:5)
 - b. We need to look to him to bind us.
 - c. We need to embrace common purpose.
 - d. Activity cannot define a team, but purpose.
 - e. A team must love one another.
 - f. These building blocks will make a dynamic team.
 - g. Submit to each others strength and protect one another.
 - h. Don't hold back once you bond.
5. Other building blocks of teams.
 - a. Purpose and goal.
 - b. Communication and trust.
 - c. Integrity, faith and loyalty.
 - d. Joint ownership.
 - e. Healthy interdependence.
6. There are three levels of teamwork.
 - a. Shared leadership is important.
 1. Competition is not shared leadership.
 2. Communicating, coordinating, and consulting is a basic level.
 - b. Thinking together represents a deeper level where planning can happen.
 1. We make decisions here.
 2. This is the second level.
 - d. Pulling together is the third level.
 1. Here ownership happens.
 2. This level is rare.

3. Most of us have not been here.
4. This is body life where we have shared leadership, submitting to each other and protecting each other.
5. This type of leadership shares responsibilities.
 - i. Some are lecturers.
 - ii. Some are interactive teachers.
 - iii. Some have time restraints.
7. Some teams are short term.
8. Some people don't work well on teams.
 - a. Some are too independent.
 - b. Some are too shy.