

Class 202 Leadership in the New Testament Church, Part 2: Session Six Notes

He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes heavy with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (Psalm 78:70-72)

Growing with the People of God

As leaders we are also people in process, being transformed into the likeness of the Son. Christian leaders as much as their secular counterparts must self-consciously work to improve their leadership skills even while they seek a deeper experience and walk with God.

The leader grows in grace by...

1. Returning to the old paths of **prayer and fasting**, giving him the Spirit and fire
2. Yielding to **the power of the Word** to transform, giving him wisdom and depth
3. Prizing the goal of **Christlikeness**, giving him character and depth
4. Having **spiritual counselors**, sharpening him and encouraging him

The leader grows with his flock by...

1. **Knowing the people:** *Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. (Prov. 27:23)*
2. **Caring for the people:** *In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bore them, and carried them all the days of old. (Isa. 63:9)*

3. Living in front of the people and with the people: *And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. (1 Sam. 18:12-14)*

4. Seeing and developing the gifts of God in others: *And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. (Acts 14:23)*

The leader knows his ministry environment by...

1. Understanding the city: *And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is [bad], and the ground barren. (2 Kings 2:19)*

2. Understanding the situation: *Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia. (2 Cor. 2:12-13)*

3. Understanding his "metron:" *But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. (2 Cor. 10:13)*

4. Understanding through observation, prayer, and the Spirit what the flock needs: *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. (Ps. 23:2)*

The leader knows and improves himself by...

1. Knowing his skill set and focusing on his strengths: *Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. (1 Sam. 16:8)*

2. Knowing what he doesn't know and seeking out who and what can help: *Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (Acts 11:25-26)*

3. Committing to continual growth and improvement: *And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? (1 Kings 3:7-9)*

The leader in 2007... two questions:

- 1.** What are the challenges for today's leaders?
- 2.** In what realms will leaders in North America require knowledge and wisdom that is different from their forebears?