***Men’s meeting – 04Mar2022 Leadership***

In recent years we have seen an increase in people/coaches/mentors coming out giving their insights and knowledge around leadership. Whether personal or business application

Podcasts, Company Trainings, Books, etc.

What I have found out is that most of the leadership principals being presented come from what God has laid out on how He sees His leaders behaving.

Some of the big Buzz Words around being a leader today are:

* **Servant Minded Leadership:** The goal of the leader is to serve, A servant leader shares power, puts the needs of the employees first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible
* **Transformational Leadership:** A leader works with teams or followers beyond their immediate self-interests to identify needed change, creating a vision to guide the change through influence, inspiration, and executing the change in tandem with committed members of a group; serves to enhance the motivation, morale, and job performance of followers through a variety of mechanisms; these include connecting the follower's sense of identity and self to a project and to the collective identity of the organization; being a role model for followers in order to inspire them and to raise their interest in the project; challenging followers to take greater ownership for their work, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of followers, which allows the leader to align followers with tasks that enhance their performance.
* **Dictatorship:** Generally, a single leader who has absolute power over a people/country. This is where we see God as He is giving His laws and commandments. But understand, God is this way out of His love for us. Which leads us to our fist leadership trait.

**NEHEMIAH**

One of the better books we can look at for leadership, and leadership traits, is Nehemiah. Nehemiah was a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, and when he heard the news of how Jerusalem, and the wall and gates were in disrepair, he mourned, wept and prayed and then asked permission of the king to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the wall and gates. He even asked for letters to be sent to the governors of the region so they would let him pass and give him what he needs.

As Nehemiah was back in Jerusalem he led the people, working beside them, in rebuilding the wall and the gates. He displayed the traits we are going to look at tonight.

**Leadership Traits:**

1. Love, Patience and Self-Sacrifice – God put people in leadership roles so they could please Him and benefit their followers. These leaders were required to make decisions based on love and unselfish concern for the people they were over. To make decisions that would require self-sacrifice and patience.
   1. Nehemiah 1:3-6, 10: - 3 They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said: “Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you.

10 “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

* 1. Matthew 20:25-28 :- 25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
  2. Ephesians 4:1-3: - 1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

1. Teaching, Instruction and Training – As a leader you must constantly and diligently train your followers. This is so you can accomplish your purpose. Also, if you can’t teach, how can you lead effectively?
   1. Nehemiah 8: 1-9: - 1 All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law….5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up….7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there.
   2. Luke 11:1-3: – 1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”
   3. Colossians 3:16: – 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
2. Setting the Example – To be an effective leader you must be able to communicate with people on what the goal to be accomplished is. But it goes further than that in a lot of cases, you must willing to participate in the work to set the example for others to imitate. This doesn’t only apply to actions, but to attitude as well.
   1. Nehemiah 4:22-23: – 22 At that time I also said to the people, “Let each man with his servant spend the night within Jerusalem so that they may be a guard for us by night and a laborer by day.” 23 So neither I, my brothers, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us removed our clothes, each took his weapon even to the water.
   2. John 13:5, 12-15: – 5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded… 12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.
   3. Philippians 4:8-9: – 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything, worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
3. Delegate – Moses, Nehemiah, Apostles
4. Motivate – Jesus
5. Courage and Strength – Joshua and Caleb, Paul, Timothy
6. Just and Fair – The biggest example I can think of for this is our God.
7. Humble – Paul

**Applications for modern leaders today:**

1. World Leaders
   1. Government – I know that right now we may have a difficult time in looking at our governmental leaders and think that they are good examples for us to imitate. Either way there needs to be a level of respect shown for their position.

Romans 13:1-4

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

* 1. Business – Again, the same as leaders in government. Not all leaders you have will be a good fit for you. Those that are truly effective in business leadership will display a number of the traits we have looked at. That is why there is the push to the leadership styles like Servant Minded Leadership and Transformational Leadership

1. Church Leaders:
   1. Elders – We can see how they are to lead the flock just by looking at the qualifications given in the bible.

Titus 1:5-9

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7 For the [d]overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation [d]incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

* 1. Deacons – As we know Deacons are to set an example for work. We look at their appointment by the Apostles in Acts 6 when the 7 were chosen to tend to serving people.

1. Home Leaders:
   1. Parents – Here lies a great responsibility for proper leadership. Not only are we to lead/raise our children to be productive members of society, but most importantly we are to lead/raise our children to have faith in God and obey Him. They are the future of the Church.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

As we can see, leaders have a lot to do and think about to be effective in the way God wants them to be.