

PICTURES OF GODLY LEADERSHIP

Philippians 2:25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

Philippians 2:26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

Philippians 2:27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Philippians 2:28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

Philippians 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

Philippians 2:30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

What makes a leader?

IDEA: Christ portrayed leaders in His kingdom, not as Lord's over people but as servants of others

NOTICE: He was *not* suggesting, as many have supposed, that lowliness alone is the essence of leadership.

EXAMPLE: There are plenty of humble, meek,

tenderhearted, servant-minded people who are not *leaders*. A true leader inspires followers.

Someone who has no followers can hardly be called a leader.

So, while it is certainly true that leadership demands a servant's heart; it is by no means the case that everyone with a servant's heart is thereby a leader.

There's far more to leadership than that.

To put it simply, leadership is *influence*. The ideal leader is someone whose life and character motivate people to follow.

The best kind of leadership derives its authority first from the force of a righteous example, and not merely from the power of prestige, personality, or position.

By contrast, much of the world's "leadership" is nothing but manipulation of people by threats and rewards. That is not true leadership; it's exploitation.

Real leadership seeks to motivate people from the inside, by an appeal to the heart, not by external pressure and coercion.

For all those reasons, leadership is not about style or technique as much as it is about character.

Character reveals itself as it did in the lives of Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus.

This morning, we are going to look at three examples from these servants of God had

OUTLINE:

- I. ACTION.
- II. DECISION.
- III. ESTEEMED

I. LEADERS TAKE ACTION.....for the work of Christ

Philippians 2:25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

1. PAUL HAD A DEEP CONCERNS FOR THE CHURCH IN PHILIPPI

A. PAUL ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE MAKE UP AND NEEDS OF HIS FELLOW MINISTERS AS WE WILL SEE

IDEA: Taking action goes hand in hand with the responsibility to lead

NOTICE: “Yet I considered” is a phrase used, of someone in a leadership capacity, it has the idea of *leading, guiding*. Necessary means, meeting a need,

EXAMPLE: Paul desperately wanted to know “Their State”. He was in prison, he was planning on sending Timothy, and then coming himself later on, but suddenly, he announces.....

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Abraham, Noah, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, the Various Judges and kings, the prophets, the NT Apostles. And, of course our God, He not only planned out our redemption, but at the right time, He acted and sent Jesus Christ to save men from their sins

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel

POINT: Leaders take action for the work of Christ when needed

The way to do a great deal, is to keep on doing a little. The way to do nothing at all, is to be continually resolving that you will do everything.

The wide-awake man seizes opportunities or makes them, and thus those who are widest awake usually come to the front.

I. LEADERS TAKE ACTION FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST

II. LEADERS, MAKE DECISIONS.. for the work of Christ

Philippians 2:25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

1. LEADERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT, AND WHY TO DO IT.

A. THE DECISION IN THIS MATTER, INTRODUCES US TO ANOTHER GODLY MAN ON PAUL'S TEAM, EPAPHRODITUS

IDEA: Paul lists five Godly truths/traits in this man's life and ministry

(1) My brother, spiritually that is. Both adopted into the family of God, having life, and Jesus, as, their Lord and Savior. What a joy it is to recognize God's grace in others.

(2) Fellow worker, like Paul, Epaphroditus was not only saved, but he was a worker. The idea behind this word, is that of working together with and helping

(3) Fellow soldier, Paul stood his ground in the spiritual warfare with Satan, just like Epaphroditus did. They, were fighting the good fight, they were comrades in the battle

(4) Your messenger, remember, he was a trusted servant from the church at Philippi, who had been sent by the church, to go see Paul in prison, in Rome. But, what is interesting, is that the word messenger here, means someone without any special status, just a worker, a man who had a mission delegated

to him. By both Phil, and Paul

What a great man he was, saved, serving, standing against the enemy, and staying the course, going all the way to Rome. Not a short trip, even one way.

(5) Who ministered to my need. What, does ministered, to my need mean? It has the idea of someone engaged in a very personal service and assistant, very intimate

EXAMPLE: Ministry in this case meant helping Paul in a very personal way with his needs

See Philippians 4:10-20

- I. LEADERS TAKE ACTION FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST*
- II. LEADERS MAKE DECISIONS.. for the work of Christ*

III. LEADERS ARE TO BE HELD IN ESTEEM for the work of Christ

Philippians 2:26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

Philippians 2:27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Philippians 2:28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

Philippians 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

Philippians 2:30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

1. PAUL GIVES US MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS SERVANT OF GOD

A. THESE FACTS REVEAL THE DEPTH OF THIS MAN'S CHARACTER, AND WHY HE SHOULD BE ESTEEMED

IDEA: Paul knew things about Epaphroditus, that no one else did, and that Epaphroditus would no doubt never tell anyone, here are two of them

(1) Distressed. 2:26 This term describes the confused, chaotic, heavy state of restlessness that results from a time of turmoil or great trauma.

You may judge a man by what he groans after

Epaphroditus was more concerned about the Philippians' worry for him than he was about his own difficult situation.

26 distressed In Matthew 26:37, you find it recorded that Jesus was "troubled," and that expression is full of meaning—of more meaning, indeed, than it would be easy to explain.

The word in the original is a very difficult one to translate. It may signify the abstraction of the mind, and its complete occupation by sorrow, to the exclusion of every thought which might have alleviated the distress.

One burning thought consumed His whole soul, and burned up all that might have yielded comfort.

For awhile His mind refused to dwell upon the result of His death, the consequent joy which was set before Him.

The learned Thomas Goodwin says, "The word denotes a failing, deficiency, and sinking of spirit, such as happens to men in sickness and swooning." Epaphroditus' sickness, whereby he was brought near to death, is called by the same word.

(2) 2:27 Sick almost unto death. Perhaps by the time he arrived in Rome, he had become seriously ill, but now was recovered enough to go back home to labor with the church, who needed him more than Paul did.

NOTICE: Paul points to the mercy of God both on his co-worker, and on him, keeping Paul from having sorrow upon sorrow

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When Patrick Hamilton had been burned in Scotland, one said to his persecutors, "If you are going to burn any more, you had better do it in a cellar, for the smoke of Hamilton's burning has opened the eyes of hundreds." It was always so. Suffering saints are living seed

EXAMPLE: Paul now brings this to a close with three final thoughts

(1) Here is why I sent him back to you

Philippians 2:28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

- Paul was quick to send Epaphroditus back to them, so, that they would rejoice, and Paul would be less sorrowful
- Paul was concerned for their sadness, and wanted them to have their joy back, and that would take away Paul's sorrow of heart

(2) Here is what I'm asking you to do now

Philippians 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

- To receive favorably, take up, welcome, in a friendly manner, look forward to him coming
- Esteem means, **to being highly regarded because of status or personal quality, honored, respected**

It does people good to be told how highly we value them. There is many a Christian man and woman who would do better if now and then someone would speak a kindly word to them, and let them know that they had done well

(3) And, here is why I'm saying all that I'm saying to you

Philippians 2:30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

QUOTE for the work of Christ

Look upward, and you will perceive no seat of fiery wrath to shoot devouring flame.

Look downward, and you discover no hell, for there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.

Look back, and sin is blotted out. Look around, and all things work together for good to them that love God.

Look beyond, and glory shineth through the veil of the future, like the sun through a morning's mist.

Look outward, and the stones of the field, and the beasts of the field, are at peace with us.

Look inward, and the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keeps our hearts and minds by Christ Jesus