

Leaders who Influence

By Pastor Rene Lussier

God inspired me to speak on **LEADERS WHO INFLUENCE**.

GOD IS THE ULTIMATE LEADER, AND HE CALLS EVERY BELIEVER TO LEAD OTHERS...

Matt 28:19 (NKJV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.

Go...Make disciples... Teach them to obey...

- God created human beings with a spirit able to relate to him and follow him.
- The call to godly leadership is a constant pattern in the Bible...
- In order to raise up a nation, God called a man—Abraham
- In order to deliver his people from slavery, he called a man—Moses
 - We see that each one of these leaders had different styles and a different type of influence
 - Abraham did not lead a nation, but a family. What made his influence extend beyond his life and impact every generation after him and even our lives?
 - Abraham's legacy was FAITH
 - Moses influenced a nation... Moses' legacy was the LAW

When we think of "a leader", we have a picture of a charismatic, outspoken person leading a mass of people. (whether it is in the church or in a company, or in the government...)

A DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP...

"**LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE**" Oswald sanders in Spiritual Leadership

- Everyone is meant to be a leader in God's kingdom...
- "A follower of God is a leader of people..."
- Everyone who accepts JC is called to influence others...

Matt 5:13 (NKJV) " **You** are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? **It is then good for nothing** but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all [who] [are] in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

■ Few people perceive themselves as leaders, assuming they cannot lead others. But the truth is that everyone has the potential.....(male, female, adult and even children , rich or poor)

Sociologists say that even introverted people will influence an average of 10,000 people in their life time.

- Think about that—Someone who is not even trying to lead others will impact many.
- In Matt 5:13, what is the first word? "**YOU**"—It is your identity in Christ and your God-given mission. You are expected to influence others. V. 13 "If the salt loses its flavor, it is good for nothin g..."
- V. 16, lead them with your life (Let your light so shine before men), influence them to glorify God...
- The issue is not whether you influence someone, but rather what kind of influence you are or will be.

Influence can be both positive and negative

- NEGATIVE- **Jacob** "influenced" the birthright away from his brother
- **Rebekah** helped **Jacob** "influenced" the best blessing of his father.
- It took influence to succeed in these two events...
- POSITIVE- Think of **Queen Esther's** influence

7 methods of INFLUENCE...

- 1) Force—use physical strength
- 2) Intimidation—bullying verbally or emotionally to get someone to act against their will
- 3) Manipulation—to take advantage of someone using clever or insidious means bringing them to act against their will
- 4) Exchange
- 5) Persuasion—Use verbal skills to move someone into action
- 6) Motivation—Energizing others so that they want to act
- 7) Honor—Showing esteem. Serving & helping others achieve a task and inspire them to act

As Christians, we practice a style of leadership that is different from the world—Jesus' style leadership

- In the world, **leadership is measure by success...**

How does God measure a leader?

- We may call “TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP”—leading people to change because they are influenced by eternal values. “INFLUENTIAL LEADERSHIP”
- This type of leadership is based on Christian character, biblical convictions and it follows the pattern of Scriptures...
 - We ourselves need to be transformed by spending time with the men and women God has used as leaders to change the world for thousands of years.

The truth is that most people have all kinds of opportunities to exercise “INFLUENTIAL LEADERSHIP”

- So the question we want to ask is

WHAT MAKES A LEADER EXERCISE A LASTING INFLUENCE FOR GOD?

- No one can totally understand that **mysterious power we call influence...** yet, everyone of us exerts influence, either to heal, to bless, to leave marks of beauty; or to wound, poison or stain other lives.

IZBAN, ELON & ABDON

Judges 12:8 Now **Ibzan** of Bethlehem judged Israel after him. ⁹ He had thirty sons, and thirty daughters whom he gave in marriage outside the family, and he brought in thirty daughters from outside for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. ¹⁰ Then Ibzan **died and was buried** in Bethlehem.

¹¹ Now **Elon** the Zebulunite judged Israel after him; and he judged Israel ten years. ¹² Then Elon the Zebulunite **died and was buried** at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

¹³ Now **Abdon** the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel after him. ¹⁴ He had forty sons and thirty grandsons who rode on seventy donkeys; and he judged Israel eight years. ¹⁵ Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite **died and was buried** at Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites. ^{13:1} Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, so that the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

SHORT INFLUENCE-no legacy— What do we learn about these 3 men?

- **Judges**—rule, govern and judge. They acted as law-giver and governor of God.

V. 8 **Ibzan** had 30 sons. He gave 30 daughters in marriage, brought in 30 daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He ruled over Israel for 7 years. **He died and was buried** - (good standing in the community)

V. 11 **Elon** ruled after him for 10 years. **He died and was buried**

V. 13 **Abdon** ruled Israel for 8 years. He had 40 sons, 30 grand sons riding 70 donkeys.

He died and was buried... - (I don't know if his pride was in his 70 donkeys- sport cars)

- We don't know much about them.
- It seems that they cared much more about the honor of their own names (family names and influence) than for the interest of God.
 - They did not attempt any great things for God. We see no exploit, no battles, no deliverance.
 - The record we have of them, “*He died and was buried*”.
 - Not having a vision from God led them to forget the interests of God and develop a vision for self.
 - They were seeking a local influence—70 donkeys.
 - What **legacy** have they left behind them?
 - **LEGACY**: Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. It can be a gift or property or something like a way of life... or even moral value, etc...
 - Here the issue about leadership is not only, “*What can I do to change people while I am here?*”
But what about after I'm gone?”

- **Reputation** is what people think of us now; **legacy** is what people think of us after we're gone.

KING DAVID LEGACY TO HIS SON SOLOMON

David was not a perfect father. He made many mistakes that we know, but the Bible declares that he was a man after God's own heart. Here is his exhortation to his son Solomon:

1Chr 28:9 (NKJV) "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

10 "Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it."

- King David certainly had a great spiritual influence over his son Solomon.
- We can see it after Solomon became king. He really sought to please the Lord.

WHAT WAS SOLOMON'S FIRST PRAYER ?

1Kin 3:5 (NKJV) At Gibeon the **Lord** appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and **God said**, "Ask! What shall I give you?" 6 And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as [it] [is] this day. 7 "Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I [am] a little child; I do not know [how] to go out or come in. 8 "And Your servant [is] in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 *"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"* 10 The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

Solomon became the wisest, greatest and richest leader of Israel In spite of all this success, he became disillusioned about life

• Solomon attempted to find satisfaction in accumulating houses, gardens, flocks, workers, women Eccl 2:10 Everything I wanted I took--I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing. I sucked the marrow of pleasure out of every task--my reward to myself for a hard day's work! I hate life 11 Then I took a good look at everything I'd done, looked at all the sweat and hard work. But when I looked, I saw nothing but smoke. *Smoke and spitting into the wind*. There was nothing to any of it. Nothing. (Message)

- He proclaimed that everything is worthless... what happened to this great leader?
- His life and success became meaningless because he abandoned his true mission...

Read Eccl 1:3-8, Solomon expressed that:

Living life without God is living for nothing... all we do is move thing around... Life has no meaning

- As the sun rises to set, without God, life is endlessly repeating a meaningless cycle.
- There is no satisfaction—Success without an eternal perspective becomes meaningless.
- Many leaders will fall into the same pattern ...

They begin well, but when they reach a certain level of success, if they don't continue to stretch, they shrink...

This often take the form of **accumulation**.

Their success leads to a nice income, so they spend and gain, spend and gain...

But as with Solomon, this cannot fill the voids:

1. the spiritual emptiness inside their heart that only God can fill.
2. Another human vacuum that only their life mission can fulfill.

To reach these goals, leaders must give up the pursuit of lesser things.

C.S. Lewis wrote, *"Indeed, if we consider the perfect promises of reward... promised in the gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires too weak. We are halfhearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine an offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."*

▪ When you read the later part of King Solomon's life, he has moved away from his original mission and goal.

1Kin 10:18 (NKJV) Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

1Kin 10:23 (NKJV) So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. 24 Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom... which God had put in his heart.

- Extremely high position of honor and authority
- Extremely rich
- Extremely popular
- We can say that in human terms, he was extremely successful.
- God did not condemn him for having all this worldly riches and popularity. Actually, God contributed to it. God had promised him he would give him all that...

▪ When his heavenly vision of God's kingdom became blurred, he mixed it with an earthly vision of his own kingdom.

- Then the heart follows the vision...

1Kin 11:1 (NKJV) **But** King Solomon loved many **foreign** women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, [and] Hittites-- 2 *from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods."* Solomon clung to these in love. 3 And he had **seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines**; and his wives **turned away his heart**. 4 For it was so, when **Solomon was old**, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not **loyal to the Lord his God**, as [was] the heart of his **father David**. 5 For **Solomon went after** Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ...9 So the **Lord became angry with Solomon, because** his **heart had turned from the Lord** God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

- How many times do you see "...turn away (his) your **heart**..." v

HOW CAN WE BE PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE?

At the end of Solomon's meditation, he summarized his search for meaning in a grand finale:

Eccl 12:1 (NKJV) Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": 5 For man goes to his eternal home,

1. Don't lose sight of the great picture, especially when you are young...
2. A call to people as they are young to REMEMBER: Bring to remembrance, be mindful... to think of God, and consider their life purpose to him...
3. Think of God as your creator—the One who gave you your body, hands and feet, eyes, ears. Can you offer him what he gave you.?
4. Do what is right while you are strong and before it's too late to undo terrible mistakes and it is too late to begin to serve the Lord (when you may have physical limitations (infirmities). There could also be some guilt realizing all the negative influence of a life time without God.
5. Remember him now... now you have life, tomorrow, you don't know...
6. Know the final goal of your life— *man is going to his eternal home*

Eccl 12:11 (NKJV) The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books [there] [is] no end, and much study [is] wearisome to the flesh.

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (the whole [duty] of man)

14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

7. Use your words like tools to influence and build up others. Use well your words...to fulfill your God-given mission. V. 11
8. You cannot do everything. Know your strength, Find God's will and focus on it to fulfill it.
9. The great lesson—Fear and obey God for this is what man is all about... (Treat God with reverence as you look at, take heed, learn and live by God's command).

"If those who hold influence over others fail to lead toward the spiritual uplands, then surely the path to the lowlands will be well worn. People travel together; no one lives detached and alone." Oswald Sanders

LEADERS ARE God's servants equipped by Him to fulfill his eternal purpose.

- "The best investment in the future is a proper influence today"

What made **Abraham & Moses** have a lasting influence beyond their life span?

Hebr 11:10 For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebr 11:26 (KJS) Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he [Moses] had respect unto the recompence of the reward. (was looking forward to)

578 **apoblepo** - to turn the eyes (mind) away from other things and steadfastly fix them on something.,

- Can you see the difference between the leadership of Solomon compared to Abraham & Moses?

The book of **revelation** gives us the vision we need to be leaders with influence

- 2 groups of people:

- 1) Reve 21:3 (NIV) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.'
- 2) Reve 20:15 (NIV) If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

If you want an [illustration](#) of someone with a clear vision of the life after life, ([what eternity can be like](#))

Luke 16:27 (NIV) "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

He was there in torment. It was real. He could see it... He begged to send someone back- asking for a 2nd chance. Now he was ready to be a leader with influence... Now he has the vision but it is too late...

Hebr 9:27 (NKJV) And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

A Chinese preacher was in an over-crowded train. Someone noticed him and asked him, "Old man, tell us why you seem so happy." He replied, "What do you think? What would be the happiest thing that could ever happen to you?" The man next to him replied, "I want to be loved by a beautiful woman." A lady said, "A big house would make me the happiest person in the world." Another said, "A passport to America." A soldier said, "If I had the power to command the People's Liberation Army, I'd be happy."

"Let me see, now;" said the preacher. "I have a mansion so large an emperor would envy; I am loved by the most beautiful person in the world; I have freedom to go wherever I wish; and I happen to be a close friend of the most powerful man on earth. In fact, I have received all this from one person; His name is Jesus Christ." Then he pulled out his Bible and spent the next 20 hours sharing his faith.

During that weekend, this Christian traveled 40 hours on trains, 9 hours on buses, 9 hours on a bicycle; he led 50 people to Christ—all at age 73.'

- That is influential leadership. This is what God would call Meaningful Leadership
- "The best investment in the future is a proper influence today"

LEADERSHIP—INFLUENCE is for everyone. Leadership is not for a few selected few.

Real leaders are in short supply. Constantly people and groups search for them. Throughout the Bible, God searches for leaders, too.

"The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people" (1 Samuel 13:14).

"Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city" (Jeremiah 5:1).

- "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall" (Ezekiel 22:30).