

The Bible 20/20 Week 48: "The Power of Leadership" (12-6-20)

Reading this week: 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Review: Series - Rediscovering Power of the Church (Gospel, Love, Community, Grace, Hope)

Introduction: 2nd Timothy - In the mid to late 60's A.D. Paul is in prison for the final time, and he knows it. His death is imminent, and so he writes to his son in the faith, Timothy . . .

Today: "The Power of Leadership" - 1) Tend your Faith 2) Live a Legacy 3) Lead in Truth

1) Tend your Faith

2 Timothy 1:3-7 (ESV)

(3) I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. (4) As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. (5) I am reminded of **your sincere faith**, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (6) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (7) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Note: Fan the flame & remember where you come from. You fit in the grand picture, now fulfill your part.

- Your own personal faith is essential as a leader (vs. 3 - Paul & 5 - Timothy)
- You are part of a larger story - remember your heritage and fulfill your calling (vs. 5)
- Don't be afraid to step into your gifting (6-7) - **Fan into flame!** (it needs oxygen - fear will smother it!)
- You have what it takes, because of the spirit God has given you
- The perfect mix - Power, Love, Self-Control (all possible thru the presence of God - **Grace to Lead!**)

Key's to tending your faith . . . both require Humility & Endurance

a) Continue to Learn (competency)

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV)

(14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Note: Learn & Endure

b) Continue to Grow (character)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

(16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Note: Learning is not just for knowledge – God's Word changes you, & in fact it completes you!

2) Living (not leaving) a Legacy

2 Timothy 2:1-3 (ESV)

(1) You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (2) and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (3) Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Note: Even as Timothy is entering his prime as a leader, Paul encourages Him to begin passing on what he has learned. This is the same thing Paul did – he always traveled with a companion . . . Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, etc.

Story of a Painting - “Baptism of Christ” by Leonardo Da Vinci & his Mentor Andrea del Verrocchio

Now, the story of Jesus growing in ministry and John the Baptist fading into the background . . .

John 3:27-30 (ESV)

(27) John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. (28) You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' (29) The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. (30) He must increase, but I must decrease."

Note: Where Verrocchio slinks back in self-doubt & pity after the ascension of his pupil, John the Baptist embraces & celebrates the one whom he paved the path for.

See Paul's view on this . . .

2 Timothy 2:8-10 (ESV)

(8) **Remember Jesus Christ**, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, (9) for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the **word of God** is not bound! (10) Therefore I endure everything **for the sake of the elect**, that they also may obtain the **salvation** that is in Christ Jesus with **eternal glory**.

Note: Paul endures it all because he realizes that God's Word & Purposes are timeless, and so he endures the challenges of leading in order to be about everyone succeeding!

- Far too often we arrange & live our own lives, and then in the closing years begin to think about legacy
- Legacy should be the starting point - remember Paul's opening words? (2 Timothy 1:5)
- Look back to the parents & grandparents of your faith, and now look ahead towards the future . . .
- Legacy is something you LIVE not something you LEAVE

Disciple-making is all about finding your place in God's Story, and stepping into that Eternal Legacy

No one makes disciples on accident - purpose to pour into others!

3) Lead in Truth

As Paul moves toward the end of his letter now, he exhorts his son in the faith (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

2 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV)

(1) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- **Preach the word in any season** – no matter the culture or consequences
- **Preach with patience & teaching** (even with enemies – see 2 Tim 2:23-26)

2 Timothy 2:23-26 (ESV)

(23) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (24) And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, (25) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV)

(3) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Note: Preach truth because . . . gravity! - Things tend to get pulled down, so always build up!

2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)

As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Note: Preach because only you can fulfill your ministry

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (ESV)

(6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Note: Preach to the end - don't let present troubles take you out! We have an eternal king, and though His reward is not always visible in the present, it will be worth it!

Conclusion: Paul's Final Words . . . Sobering, yet hopeful, and full of the presence of God!

2 Timothy 4:16-18 (ESV)

(16) At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! (17) But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Note: You will suffer personal rejection – Forgive, be strengthened, & be rescued by the Lord