

PAUL: PERSECUTOR TO PREACHER

Leadership

Ice Breaker: Without getting political, who is the greatest leader you have known personally?

But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city... "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here... They are defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." (Acts 17:5, 6-7)

Give an example of a time you have seen jealousy cause problems in relationships or situation.

The heart of a spiritual leader must settle the issues of...

Since all Christians are leaders, how are you influencing the lives around you?

- ***Courage: Who do I obey?*** – “You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.” (1 Thes. 2:1-2)

Do you find it easier to obey God when you are lonely, hurting, sick, fearful or during the “good” times? Why?

- ***Integrity: Who do I serve?*** – “For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.” (1 Thes. 2:3-4a)

What words would you use to define integrity?

- ***Authority: Who do I please?*** – “We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know that we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.” (1 Thes. 2:4b-6a)

What happens in our life when we seek the praise or flattery of men instead of God?

The approach of a spiritual leader requires you to be...

Discuss what each of the following five approaches might look like in our daily lives.

- ***Caring in love*** – “As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much...” (1 Thes. 2:6b-8a)
- ***Open with life*** – “...we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” (1 Thes. 2:8b)

- ***Tireless in service*** – “Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.” **(1 Thes. 2:9)**
- ***Godly in character*** – “You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.” **(1 Thes. 2:10)**
- ***Discerning in discipleship*** – “For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.” **(1 Thes. 2:11-12)**

Which of the approaches is easiest for you? Most difficult for you?

The fruit of spiritual leadership...

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Thes. 2:13)

The internal heart is what allows us to display the qualities of a leader to the world. Will you prayerfully consider taking a personal leadership audit as Craig recommended letting God reveal any areas that need to be addressed?