



Leading Yourself

Introduction:

Our desire at Oasis is that we will develop a family of leaders with a heart to serve.

You are all leaders at Oasis. Remember we said that 'leadership is influence'? We are all influencers. Last time we met, we talked about some of the things that hold us back in our leadership - things like fear, anger, jealousy, tradition.

When we think of leadership, we usually think about us leading people who are, in one sense, 'below' us. We are asked to lead a group of people, maybe those in a lifegroup or a serving team and so we think of leadership in terms of leading them – but leadership is so much more.

We all lead someone; some of us may lead hundreds, other just a few, but there is one person that WE ALL LEAD – ourselves.

You may not think about it like that, but the reality is that every day you lead yourself. You may be good at it; you may find it a challenge but we all still do it. 'Self-leadership' is possibly the most important leadership of all.

Much of this material comes from 'Courageous Leadership' by Bill Hybels.

1 Samuel 30 v. 1-6

30 *David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ² and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.*

³ *When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵ David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters.*

Question 1: If you were David in that situation, what would you do?



'But David found strength in the LORD his God.'

When David faced a severe crisis of leadership, the first thing he does is strengthen HIMSELF in God.

It is like the old analogy of the airplane oxygen mask. During the flight preparations, the flight attendants will show you what happens when the cabin loses pressure. The masks come down and the FIRST THING you should do is put on your own mask BEFORE you help anyone else. In other words, look after number one first!

This seems to contradict everything we think of as Christians. Aren't we meant to put others first? The reality is, however, if you don't put on your own mask first, you won't have anything to help others with. In the aircraft context you'll pass out really quickly and not only be unable to help others, but you'll also be a hinderance to others.

The gospels record that Jesus had times of intense ministry, but He always put aside the time for prayer and solitude and rest. Note that this was not just about Jesus gaining spiritual strength, but also emotional strength and physical strength. We are triune beings.

(Discuss & feedback) – Share with the group the sorts of things you do to take care of yourself spiritually.

(Discuss & feedback) – Share with the group the sorts of things you do to take care of yourself emotionally.



(Discuss & feedback) – Share with the group the sorts of things you do to take care of yourself physically.

Our first priority, as Christians and especially as leaders, is to take of ourselves so that we can lead others well.

Take a look at these verses

Acts 20 v. 24

24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

Matthew 10 v. 39

39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

1 Peter 2 v. 9

‘But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.’

What is the purpose of our lives? Why is this so important?

We all want the best life that we can possibly have; no one sets out to have second best. But a good life is a life that is well lead. To lead ourselves well, it is important that we have a few things in place.



What is my personal 'vision' for my life?

This may seem strange, but if we don't have a vision or an aim then we're not moving towards anything. For example, we may decide we want to get fit and we have a 'vision' of ourselves at some point in the future, fully fit and active. This 'picture' of our future self then drives us to work towards our goal. It motivates us to go to the gym or take a walk.

We may have a vision of us being close to God and able to lead others to Him. This should motivate us to spend time with Him and pray and read the Word.

How can I maintain my passion for what I'm doing?

We will always have times when we feel tired and drained. It is difficult to be a good influencer when we're not at our best. It is important that we find ways to keep ourselves passionate about what we are doing.

What gifts, talents and abilities has God given me that He wants me to use and develop?



The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18** But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **20** The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? **27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. **29** For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **30** And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



Is my Character Submitted to Christ?

Do I have integrity?

Am I proud or insecure?

Is my behaviour the same at home as in public?

What are my priorities?

Is the pace of my life sustainable?

Is my love for God increasing?

What actions do I need to take to lead myself better?