

## **Jesus on Leadership**

### **Share the Load**

#### **Acts 6:1-6**

When you think about the opportunity that you have to influence others where you are in your life today, do you ever have the thought...there will never be enough time for me to do the things I would like to do or know that I need to do? It's a common occurrence among people in any kind of leadership role to feel pinched for time, overwhelmed by the opportunities they are faced with.

For a couple of weeks now, we've been focused on what Jesus had to say about leadership and the looking at the kind of leadership that He demonstrated through His life. **The word that most described the leadership of Jesus as well as His life was servant.**

We looked at one of the most memorable nights in the life of Jesus and watched in amazement as Jesus left the head of the table and took up the towel of servant leadership with His followers. **He was willing to risk anything earthly to gain everything eternal because He was convinced that His heavenly Father was in control in His life. He was convinced that His Father had given Him a mission and all the resources that He would need to accomplish that mission. He was convinced that He would return to His heavenly Father and that His Father was the One who would evaluate His faithfulness in accomplishing the mission that He had been given.**

### **Servant Leaders SHARE THE LOAD!**

**Acts 6:1-6 – 1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.**

#### **1. Find your BHAG in meeting a need.**

A BHAG is what Jim Collins wrote about in his book “Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies”. It stands for a Big Hairy Audacious Goal.

As a church, we've been given the biggest BHAG of all time...**Ephesians 3:9-11 – 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,**

*10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

2. Focus on your ROLE in meeting that need.

When you focus on your role in meeting a need, responding to an opportunity you are faced with in your community, you'll take a huge step towards effectively sharing the load. Now, what exactly does that look like? Here's the third step...

3. Share the RESPONSIBILITY for meeting that need.

GOOD leaders never give their leadership away. However, they do share both the rewards and responsibility of leading. CALVIN MILLER The Empowered Leader

4. Extend the AUTHORITY to meet that need.

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We can do this because of the responsibility that Jesus gave us and the authority that He extended to us...**Matthew 28:18-20** – *18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Let's talk about sharing the load...

1. What kind of problems can success cause in an organization?
2. What was the problem that the early church faced that threatened to derail its mission (v.1)?
3. What did the leaders in the church have to say “No” to so that they could say “Yes” to their priority (v.2)?
4. What was their solution to meet the need that had arisen in the early church (v.3)?
5. What’s the difference between delegating responsibility and abandoning responsibility?
6. Why is it so hard for leaders to give away responsibility to others?
7. What are the qualities you should be looking for in the people you share responsibility with?
8. What does it mean to extend authority to someone you have given responsibility to?