



Next Level--Leaders...Leadership

Lesson 5: Leadership Lessons from the Word

The Importance of Order in Leadership

The Big Idea:

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”

Genesis 1:3 NKJV

“Clarity of direction is the beginning of order.”

Dr. David E. Jackson

Leaders who are authentic Christ-followers will work intentionally and strategically to create an emotionally healthy culture and build a solid team. This task is of utmost importance for Christian leaders because our cultures and teams should be radically different from those of the world. Building a healthy culture and team ensures that there is order and successful completion of desired goals. Without order on a team, there is confusion, miscommunication, and stagnation.

December’s Leadership Lessons, “The Importance of Order in Leadership,” is designed to share principles from Genesis 1:1-3 in hopes of equipping you with concepts to evaluate the quality of order in your sector of leadership. The sections of this lesson are: (1) Three results of the lack of order (Lack of Structure, Prevents Direction, and Blocks Holy Spirit’s Involvement); (2) Order is connected to Words, and (3) A deeper dive into the meaning of the word, “word.”

◆ My Notes ◆

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

A Question to Consider:

How do you know when your structure and system of leadership is lacking order?



Three Results From the Lack of Order

◆ *My Notes* ◆

1. Leads to Lack of Structure (Genesis 1:2)

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth in Genesis 1:1. The word God (Elohim in the Hebrew) speaks of His creative nature. He is the one who can take nothing and make something. Then He can take what He has made and transform it into something else. There is one interesting challenge: God’s creation appears to have no order. Verse 2 says that the Earth was without form and void. Form means to lie wasted, confusion, and shapeless. Void means empty. Note that although God created the Earth it was still lacking order which also created a lack of shape, form or structure.

When we say order we mean the arrangement or disposition of people or things in relation to each other according to a particular sequence, pattern, or method. Order often comes from clearly stating how things and people are to interact and connect with each other. In what ways are you clearly setting the dynamics of interaction for your teams or areas of leadership?

2. Prevents Release of Direction (Genesis 1:2)

Genesis 1:2 goes on to say that there was darkness on the face of the deep. Darkness is a symbol of a lack of sight or direction. When things are dark, you cannot see where you are neither can you determine the next steps to take. Where is no order, there are no clear steps forward. The face of the deep statement makes this point even more striking. Face of deep literally means the presence of confusion. Where there is a presence of confusion then clarity is prevented. When clarity is prevented then direction is hauled.

If you want your ministry or organization to grow, then you must have clarity on where you are heading and how to get there. One of the ways to get clear is to be honest about the areas in your life that are out of order. A lack of order can distract from working on necessary areas that leads to successful movement.

3. Blocks the Holy Spirit’s Involvement (Genesis 1:2)

There is an interesting statement at the end of Genesis 1:2 that says “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” The Hebrew word for hover suggests a loving fluttering over something of interests. This means that the Holy Spirit was present but not directly involved in the affairs of the Earth. The Holy Spirit is not intrusive in anyway but directly connects where invited. We also know that the Holy Spirit also connects where there is order. Disorder is a repellant to the operation of God’s spirit. Without the guidance, direction, and involvement of the Holy Spirit, our ministries and organizations will struggle and lack the power to see effective results.



Order is Connected to Words

When God decided to bring order to the Earth, He spoke to it. Genesis 1:3 says “Then God said...” God could have addressed the chaotic condition of the Earth in anyway He saw fit yet He made the decision to speak to it. This helps us gain some insight into the power that words have to bring order to disorder. Leaders cannot be afraid to speak directly to situations in their ministries, families and organizations that create confusion, discord and stagnation. For instance, research shows that when leaders refuse to address people on their team who do not pull their weight, then they are likely to lose influence with the other members of their teams. Another aspect of order is creating an environment where people feel that they can speak freely about the culture of the organization and present ideas even if they are opposing ones. Peter Drucker said in Samuel Chand’s book *Bigger, Faster Leadership* that, “The understanding that underlies the right decision grows out of the clash and conflict of opinions and out of the serious consideration of competing alternatives.” Creating a healthy organizational culture where people are unafraid to share their ideas is an essential trait.

Leaders who are authentic Christ-followers will work intentionally and strategically to create an emotionally healthy culture and build a solid team. This task is of utmost importance for Christian leaders because our cultures and teams should be radically different from those of the world. From this radically different place, spiritual leaders can effectively move their teams along in God’s perfect agenda and plan for them. When your team is moving swiftly in one accord in God’s purpose for them individually, collectively and organizationally, then the results are tremendous.

The culture should be one of trust, clear communication, and authentic concern for people’s personal and professional development. Leadership is, without question, a people business. It is beyond managing budgets, executing goals, and meeting standards. It is fundamentally about the people who serve on your team. These times call for caring yet direct leadership and the invested trust from your team to guide them.

A Deeper Dive into the Meaning of Word

The Hebrew word for word is “Dabar.” This is a fascinating word because it also used for “thing.” This suggests that in the mind of God, a word is also a thing. We see this clearly demonstrated in the Creation narrative in Genesis as everything that God made was created by His words alone—except for Adam and Eve. Elohim, the original word for God, is the One who can take nothing and make something. The creative nature of God is one who creates through the power of words.

◆ My Notes ◆



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A Thought to Ponder:

Our words have power to create order or disorder. Idle speech has become a growing part of our present age. People will say unproductive or pointless things that they may not mean but the affects of the words can produce negative results in the life of the speaker.

A Thought: **What are you doing to be more mindful of the words you speak during your day? What strategies do you use to address idle talk?**

What Difference Would It Make:

In what way(s) do you strategically address things that create disorder?

Who holds you accountable when you are out of order?

What are the indicators that things in your life, ministry and/or business are operating in divine order?

What are your daily/weekly practices that helps you to take inventory of the condition of your operations and those involved in it?

Suggested Resources:

Bigger, Faster Leadership

by Samuel Chand

<https://www.amazon.com/Bigger-Faster-Leadership-Lessons-Builders-ebook/dp/B01M0D1M1J>

◆ *My Notes* ◆