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## Way of Wisdom: Leadership (Proverbs 15:33, 16:1,3, 6, 9, 29:18)

*Wise Leaders Are Servants following God's Vision*

**INTRO:** Leadership is influence. Get people to do something that needs done and enjoy it!

My mom and dad were determined their kids would be resilient hard workers. In a small town to have enough people for a baseball, or basketball team, or play – everyone participated. And then there was 4-H . . . what else do kids who live in rural America do?

- My parents were determined to unlock every bit of potential and call it out by having us involved in challenging projects.
- sheep, pigs, calves
- sewing, cooking, arts and crafts, time management training
- demonstrations in front of a panel of judges
- Record Books . . . in the summer? “WHAT,” haven’t we worked enough?”
- If only GPT Chat would have been in the 70’s
- AI (artificial intelligence) is changing the workforce. It’s available every second of the day. It’s taking over data entry positions.
- Some day AI may be in medical field asking you your symptoms or robotics may be cleaning your teeth or giving you implants.
- AI cannot: plan strategically, or think creatively. Does not have ethical judgment. Cannot assess empathy love and goodwill. It cannot measure the passion of a person’s vision.

Without God’s wisdom you end up with AI artificial intelligence.

Pray

### \*Wise Leadership begins with good character

- Often motivated by leaders we admire from afar; admire their talent, equating talent and success to character.
  - examples: music artist, sports celebrity, CEO, someone you follow on a podcast
- Good character comes from God.
- Mk 10:17 A man asks Jesus, “Good teacher,” “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
- **18** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.
- If Jesus is saying this, God is my “go to” for character
- According to Jesus only God is “good.” He is the source for everything “good” including, “good character.”
- In Proverbs and Psalms becoming WISE is connected to “the fear of the LORD” -- awe, reverence.

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Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Prov 1:7

Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor. Prov 15:33

- His Words matter to me; they are louder -- in my head
  - What happens when you practice being in awe of God;
  - - find true knowledge 1:7; the LORD teaches you wisdom 15:33
    - Fear of the LORD leads to life, security, and protection from harm
    - 19:23 you will be "rewarded," your hope will not be disappointed.
    - Prov 14:26 NASB You have strong confidence and your CHILDREN will have a PLACE of refuge
    - Faith Leaders building a legacy for their children -- a home of wisdom, and safety

### \*Wise LEADERS admire God. They live in AWE of God

- Who you are as a leader points to something: an ideal, a book, a person.
- My Goal as a Leader: I want my leadership to reflect God.
- I love my job at Covenant Grove: I get to do my favorite things; study God's Word, and invite people to connect with Jesus, brainstorm ideas for ministry, work with an amazing creative staff and all of YOU!
- Working for secular organizations can challenge sharing your faith.
- One way to practice godly leadership is bringing the presence of God into the workplace.

### \*You bring godly wisdom into your workplace by bringing God into your workspace.

- Even in a very small cubicle you can use decor to reflect who you are: a follower of Christ.
- With quotes of Scripture, photos, books, have a small Bible, a cross, a small painting.
- Transform your workspace into a place of encouragement, a refuge of safety, a hub of peace, within a building of constant activity.
- And It will keep you focused on God's faithful presence throughout your work week.
- Strategy of quiet leadership giving God credit for everything good in your life.
- It's somewhat similar to Daniel opening his window and kneeling to pray 3x a day. He wasn't ashamed of His God. He freely told people about the Source of his wisdom. Show people your Source of strength is from GOD!
  - This is leadership: you can create a welcoming space fueled by your admiration of God -- others will come to you: to ask advice, for guidance, care, and encouragement.

### - Wise Leaders Practice Self-Awareness

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## I Kings 3:7-9

5 That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

6 Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

7 "Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. 8 And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! 9 Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!"

Solomon displays self-awareness.

- Solomon knows he is not qualified: "I am a little child and don't know where to begin." He practices humility and asks for wisdom.
  - Identify weaknesses. Find a strategy to overcome
    - refuse to be derailed by distractions
    - deal with old baggage
      - travel light, so you are ready to be used by God whenever He says "Go."

Solomon didn't know what to do, but he knew the Source of Wisdom.

## \*Who Before Do (Craig Groeschel, Pastor, and Author)

- When I understand "who" I am, then my who (identity) informs my "do."
  - Without knowing who I am, I won't know what to do--I'll be tempted to try a myriad of strategies to find my way.
  - You are decisive because you've done the WORK of WHO AM I.
    - This is done in self-reflection: "What do I value? What do I care about?"
  - Example: I am a Master Gardener: I condition soil for a high yield of fruits and vegetables. My action: I find out everything I can about fertilizing plants, pest control. Example of Teacher: I mold young minds and teach them to apply skills of core subjects in creative ways so they can thrive not just survive in a changing society. I creatively communicate knowledge. Engage students in practice that is relevant to their experience.
- **My Who informs My Do**
- Why not allow God help You plan from the very beginning? Divine wisdom in the brain at the beginning of the process.

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- Commit your actions to the LORD and your plans
- will succeed. (establish your plans). Prov 16:3
- We can make our plans,
- but the LORD determines our steps. Prov 16:9
- **Psalm 37: 5** Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this

## Who Before Do stories

Story 1: George Washington Carver: He got up at 4 every morning to spend time with God walking in the woods. God revealed innovation . . . 300 products.

Story 2: Friend who has undergone a hard transition over the past few years. In a life group one of the Leaders shared the biblical teaching of giving God the best of what you have, “your first fruits.” She committed to giving God not only the “first fruit” of her finances, but the “first fruit” of her time. . . vision for life , vision business, vision relationships. What it has done: business has increased, God has revealed partnership of new office space. A way to deal with stress . . . talk to God as if He is in the room -- HE IS!

- Who can measure the blessings of offering God your “first fruits” In offering God the “first fruits” of your time, Jesus becomes REAL. He becomes your Counselor, your Sustainer, your Advisor, your Refuge, your Inspiration.
- He will give vision -- revelation.

## \*Vision becomes your compass.

- Charisma and ingenuity are not a substitute for VISION.
- Prov 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, people are unrestrained.” Some versions say, “run wild.” Godly wisdom is missing.
- Pastor Scott created a vision statement for our church: To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ. On our banner. Our vision is repeated in different ways as look around the sanctuary
  - John 15:5 verse of remaining in the vine because without Christ we can do nothing. 3 roots of Discipleship, Fellowship, Mission.
  - Remembering Jn 15:5 and our vision statement have kept us centered on the mission God gave us 14years ago. Write a vision statement: vision goes back to what you value and care about

What has helped me grow as a Leader -- a VISION STATEMENT.

Twelve years ago, I wrote a vision statement.

- God communicated it.
  - Didn’t make sense at the time -- it was bigger than me. I didn’t have the skillset yet. I couldn’t see the path, I didn’t a much opportunity, yet.

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- God revealed my vision statement through a passage of Scripture that inspired me. It motivated me. It challenged me. It changed the way I thought about God, and how I related to God. These verses changed how I talked to God.
- My faith grew -- in believing that just how this hero of faith talked to God, I could talk to God in this way. The Scripture gave me a “not yet” mindset. Leaders with vision believe in the “not yet.” You walk by faith not by sight. Faith is being certain of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
- The vision was not “a position” or a job, or a profession. It was an *action statement of WHO God was calling me to be*: a person who teaches and leads others into the presence of God through the declaration of Scripture, music, and prayer so they are equipped and ready to pursue their God Given mission.
- Wise Leaders have a Vision statement as a compass,
  - You’re empowered to say yes to what you value, what furthers your vision. Vision statement gives you authority and permission to say NO to the rest.
- As you grow in your gifts, reaching goals, other people will ask you to join their team, or they want you to help them: A Vision Statement keeps your eye on the race you are running with an eye on the Finish Line.
- Who is God calling me to become. My “who informs my do.” Charisma, integrity, innovation, goals can spellbind a team -- they ARE NOT a substitute for vision.

A God given Vision becomes your playing field: baseball, football, soccer

- vision helps you discern what comes next; the order of “next steps” on the path
- vision comes from what you care about; what you value, so work is enjoyable
- doing what you love creates passion
- constantly doing what you don’t enjoy is called stress

With character that admires God first, and Vision, you are ready for OPPORTUNITY.

- where find opportunity?
- Often you think you are ready for the big moment, and so you wait for the BIG offer
  - Be faithful to what you have been given.
  - **Luke 16:10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much . . .**
- Ladies you know this saying: “Bloom where you’re planted.”
- As you are faithful with a little, you are **growing step by step** into your vision. **If your vision statement describes who you are now -- that is not a vision.**
- A God given vision is BIGGER than you! It depends upon God and lots of hard work.
- Be faithful with what your are given -- and wait on God for your next step.
- Fill your Supply Lines: Find wise Leaders.

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- Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success. Prov 15:22
- Surround yourself with godly people.
- Four years ago I was at the Mission Springs Women's Retreat I met Rici Skei. She had a "preaching/teaching" breakout session. I went to the session and afterwards signed up for her "Carry the Word" cohort. This was prior to starting seminary. At that time I was experiencing A WALL, the kind we talked about Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. Four months later my mom fell on Christmas Eve and needed surgery. I flew to OKC to help my dad and take care of my mom. The first week in Jan I had my first one-on-one through zoom with Rici. I was excited to learn, be challenged in personal development and preaching. Two weeks later I met with Rici on zoom. On Jan 10th my mom had passed away unexpectedly.
- For the next 6 months, in addition to CG staff, Rici was a major supply line. That was a divine appointment -- God timing.
- Fill your supply lines: have a strategy person; soul sharpener: someone to challenge you in integrity, in godly character; tail kicker: challenge you to go beyond what you think you can do
  - We all know someone who just published a book on Supply Lines!
    - Supply Lines inspire you with new ways of thinking; new strategies
    - They will help FUEL your vision
    - and envision the "not yet"
    - with supply lines you are prepared for setbacks

Godly character matters.

### \*Love Driven Leaders Serve

- Pick up a towel and start serving others.
- Get good at helping the person on your left and your right.
- This is godly wisdom; it's what Jesus did. Washed all 12 of his disciples' feet. He taught them to do the same.

**Story of helping others:** move, providing meals for a single mom working full time with lupus: meal train.

- In the World's eyes Leaders are benefactors; they benefit from the work of their employees.
- Like Jesus, Wise godly leaders serve as they lead. They possess empathy and care. Almost anyone can have compassion. Godly leaders -- go the extra mile to walk in the other person's shoes.
  - They take time to help you when it's after 5:00pm and you're still working on a project.

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- They practice kindness and forgiveness when you mess up.
  - When they go to Starbucks, they offer to bring back drinks for others.
  - They pick you up at the airport when the family member who was supposed to pick you up is in the hospital.
- 
- Love driven leader preserve the dignity of their employees.
  - Know how to draw out talent to help people reach the next level of potential.
    - Teacher's do this every week! Encouraging their students to do more than the student thinks is possible.
  - Wise Leaders don't wait for a "golden moment" of opportunity.
  - They see an opportunity in front of them and begin shaping the future.

### \*Leaders see potential in EVERYONE!

#### STORY:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzGsmhfdswJdVsPdWplkLdLSvKtB?projector=1> Little boy who cannot stop tapping in the classroom. By academic classroom standards at age 8 he's a mess up with no hope. One day after school Mr. Logan asks him to stay after school. The little boy thinks he is in trouble. After school Mr. Logan tells his young student that he is not doing anything wrong. From his drawer Mr. Logan pulls out a pair of drumsticks and says, "I believe you are a drummer." From that point the boy's life changes . . . he goes to college with a drumming scholarship and later travels the world as a drummer.

- Wise Leaders figure out how to unlock potential in others.
- My mom knew how to unlock the potential in her kids
- Godly Leaders CHAMPION an individual to see them reach their potential and RUN.
- Instead of seeing employees: Leaders see LEADERS.

Admire God More Than Anyone Or Anything  
Who before Do--Who Informs Do  
Vision Is Your Compass  
Love Driven Leaders Serve  
Leaders See Potential In Everyone

Do you see your potential?

Don't you think God sees the potential within you?

I invite you to write a vision statement -- fill one of your Supply Lines.

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