

Introduction

Leadership Development Part-One I

Can I share with you what the Holy Spirit taught me? By Angela Loggin B.S.C.L.

Leadership development is the key principle for kingdom living. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the need of preparation for ministry by examining the life and leadership of Joseph and how Joseph's leadership style contrasts with today's leadership. The particular focus is placed on God developing his character through example. Joseph's life shows that character, vision, skills, and relationship are vital parts of preparing for ministry.

Henry Blackaby says that "leadership development comes through character development, because leadership is a character issue. Therefore, the first truth in leadership development is this: God's assignments are always based on character--the greater the character, the greater the assignment (Luke 16:10). Before God will give leaders larger assignments, he will build in them greater characters."¹

When God calls He provides; however, a call to ministry is also a call to preparation. The word "prepare" means "to make ready beforehand for a specific purpose." Preparations must be made to fulfill the call of God. A man or woman called to lead must first yield their vessels to God and cooperate with the Holy Spirit, who will guide them (Jeremiah 18:1-4).²

Before God can use you effectively, you must separate yourself from the world's standard, which means every work of the flesh (2 Timothy 2:21).³ Trials and tribulations will begin to come into every area of your life. God would allow Satan to tempt you regarding your health, marriage, finances, loved ones, and close friends. Henry Blackaby says that character building takes time. There are no shortcuts. Two factors determine the length of time required for God to develop character worthy of spiritual leadership: trust in God and obedience to God. God builds character through the ordinary experiences and crises of life.

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Most character building does not occur while one is attending a seminar or taking a course. Rather, God uses everyday events, both good and bad, to shape leaders. This is a part of God's method to train you for the call.⁴ The character of today's leader must be able to motivate others to be different, which will also earn their trust. While a leader's character is being developed, God is also giving him or her the vision for the Church. A leader must be able to maintain the vision which God has called him or her to by showing compassion toward the people. Habakkuk 2:2 says to write the vision. God does not mumble. He speaks with clarity and forthrightness.⁵ God's admonition is to "Write." This is a true profession; in fact, Habakkuk was a spokesman for God's revelation. This is a perfect example of how God's leaders of today should demonstrate his or her leadership. The Lord holds leaders responsible for the people's lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6).⁶

Today's leaders need to have a clear vision and purpose to bring unity among the people of their culture. Moreover, they must be able to use their influence to educate men and women to believe in themselves, in spite of the storms of life that may come. The purpose of preparing for ministry helps leaders to develop character, skills, and relationships, as well as maintain their vision as they receive the call to action to lead the God's people.

Henry Blackaby, *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People to God's Agenda* (Nashville: B & H Publishing Group)

Jeremiah 18:1-4: God directed Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 1989)

Second Timothy 2:21: Some vessels are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Blackaby, Henry, *Spiritual Leadership*

Habakkuk 2:2: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Hosea 4:6: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*