

Passing the Leadership Test

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Thursday, 9 – 10:30 am

Introduction:

I love this.

In every seat there is a multiplier. People who have influence.

What God can do in this kind of event is something.

Let's dive right in.

My conviction is that JC was the best leader in human history.

I believe that the quality of the team that a leader surrounds himself with determines the height to which a leader rises.

NT passage: Luke 5 - 5 Tests of a Leader

The crowd issues become problematic.

The best leader in the world synergizes two critical tasks.

He solves the crowd issue.

He administers these tests of leadership.

Luke 5:3-4 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **“Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”**

1. The bias toward action test!

Peter was not a stranger to Jesus.

Will you help me solve a logistical problem that will help my sermon?

What happens to Peter when problems come his way?

The next 30 seconds directs the rest of his life.

He passes this first test.

Do you issue this kind of test when you are building your inner circle?

Is near the top of the list of what you are looking for action toward getting things done?

Make no mistake about it, Jesus was looking for an action guy.

He was trying to launch the kingdom of God on the earth. He needed teammates with a bias toward action.

In the early days I was like a one man band.

I knew I had to surround myself with action people, “make it happen” people.

What do you do to check this?

I asked prospective leaders to pitch in and help me solve some problems around the church.

I checked their bias toward action.

“Can you help me with something?”...

I would work shoulder to shoulder with these people.

But I was testing people to see who were the “can do” people.

Who served others?

People who make things happen.

I would take people with me to check their energy levels.

Who has a bias toward solving problems.

Please listen: What we are trying to build will not get done by sleepy types. The work is too hard.

Set those tests however you want, but use this test.

The “driving” test.

How important this is. He never hires anyone without a driving test.

The smartest leaders I know invite others to help them solve problems.

Draft “high energy” people.

If JC was looking for new people with a bias toward action, what does JC want from us today? Or is lowering the expectation, coasting, ...not big deal with JC. Peter was irrepensible. He was activistic by nature. Same with Paul.

God is still looking for people who will roll up their sleeves and use the shovel instead of lean on it.

God is still trying to pour out his favor on leaders who get up early and get at it.

When you run the race, win the thing. Don't be running slow.

Activistic people overdue it sometimes. – the ear thing.

“Take a whack at something” and stop standing around waiting

2. Can you follow directions test. Luke 5:4

Luke 5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch. Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. **But because you say so, I will** let down the nets.”

Can you follow directions test. The authority and submission test.

By constitution it is their way or the highway. Independent cowboys and cowgirls!

JC is testing Peter to see if he will follow directions.

BYSSIW! Because you say so, I will! He did exactly what Jesus said. He was willing to subordinate his will to Jesus.

You want to find out at the end of the day will they take direction! Do they have the BYSSIW attitude? If not, no matter how talented I will not use them.
Will they do what God asks? Will they do what you ask?
Do they have a cooperative spirit. Will they do what the group decides to do?

Finding this out BEFORE

3. Who deserves the credit test?

Luke 5:8 "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Peter falls on his knees and gives all the credit to Jesus. Peter know who deserved the credit and he knew it wasn't him. This is essential.

ILL: Celebrity golf tournament.

"You the man!"

The pro golfer himself was uncomfortable.

Credit hogging does not help the group dynamics in the local church.

God is not going to share His credit with anyone.

For some it is all about them!

If Peter had said, "I'm the man!"

Jesus does not draft self-adoring people into his service.

Not some of the time, but all the time we are to give Him the credit!

When we work in teams and the team makes us look better than we are we should acknowledge the team. Give credit where credit is due!

Heaven watches this more closely than you might think.

Credit hogging is the beginning of the end in local churches and in ministry.

Romans 16 – person after person named and given credit.

How are we doing on this leaders? Why is it going so well.

It is hard sailing into the wind!

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

4. The grander vision test!

JC is the best leader of human history.

Luke 5:10-11 "and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

Nothing wrong with fishing and catching fish.
But the real treasure is not fish, but people!
What would you rather be about?
Wouldn't you rather get about the task of fishing for people.

JC paints a picture that sets Peter, James and John's hair on fire.
JC waited for the right moment to say, "Let's take it up a notice! Do you catch the significance of the grander vision?"

What does God treasure most? His kids, lost kids, found kids!
Nothing wrong with business. Nothing wrong with teamwork, etc.
Think of the thrill of getting God's treasure right.

I wish you'd all get this and that you would see the grander vision God calls us to.
My life, my gifts, my energies can be used by God to redirect people to God and his vision for their lives. How can I settle for Perch any more? When I can come to the Super Bowl of God's bigger challenge. Why would you ever give your life to a lesser challenge?

This is the test...to see if they would settle for the lesser vision.
You better not shrink back from issuing the challenge to give what is left of their lives for the grander vision!

Stop fishing for Perch. Raise it up. People's lives are at stake. Join me in the grander vision.
You must do this regularly. You must do it courageously! Often people don't respond the first time or 2nd, or 3rd. But giving their lives for something that won't rust, rot or depreciate.

5. Will you leave it test?

Luke 5:11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

The grander vision is the costlier vision.
The will you leave it test
JC never demands that they cash out.
He simply throws out the grander vision and they make a choice.
It is true, sometimes JC does say to do this. Some get "conscripted".

But far more often God arranges us to see the grander vision and God steps back and says, if you see the grander vision, and want to pursue it, go for it!

Pick your size fish!
If you attach a lot of value to the gv well, it is your choice, leave some things and go for it.
If not, pick up your fishing pole.

Consider upgrading your vision!
But pastor, doing this will cost me X, Y, Z,. My company won't promote me, my wife will not support me. So often we cave!

"Man, I wouldn't want the gv to cost you something!"

Fish for Perch, live for lessor dreams, get up in the morning all amped up for something that doesn't amount to a hill of beans.

I try not to let people off the hook.
GV has a higher price tag. They just do.

JC promises, if you leave the lesser vision for the greater I will give you life in all its fullness.
A sense of meaning and purpose and joy.
Don't take people off the hook!

There is a greater vision but it is worth it.
Countless people have left things behind.
But they do so for the greater. The stakes are higher and the payoff is bigger.
They are dialed into a bigger dream.

Don't lose sight of the fact that the one we follow left it all behind and came to earth for the greater.
He left his blood behind. What have you ever left behind that was as costly as what He left behind?

Don't shrink back from casting the greater vision
Or from telling them it will cost them something.