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What Makes a True Christian Leader? (Part II)

Matthew 20:26: (NASB) *It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.*

About a month ago we began talking about leadership - Christian leadership -and how important it is for a Christian community - any community - to have significant leadership. Without leadership, people tend towards their own way and more than that, without leadership people tend towards a self-centered and incomplete perception of the world around them. Our last conversation revolved around the *internal* aspects of leadership - what makes a leader from the inside out. Today we will talk about what makes a leader from the outside in.

Please refer to **Part I** of this program to review these important questions:

- What are the core values that guide me?
- What are the most important things, the "True North" that I focus on?
- What am I doing and how am I doing it right now?
- What am I growing towards and how am I feeding that growth?

The difference, Simon Sinek, TED Talk

- *Why is it that Martin Luther King led the civil rights movement? He wasn't the only man who suffered in pre-civil rights of America. He certainly wasn't the great orator of the day. Why him? And why is it that the Wright Brothers were able to figure out control powered man flight when there were certainly other teams who were better qualified, better funded, and they didn't achieve powered man flight and the Wright Brothers beat them to it? There is something else at play here. As it turns out, there's a pattern. As it turns out, all the great and inspiring leaders and organizations in the world -whether it's Apple, Martin Luther King, or the Wright Brothers - they all think, act, and communicate the exact same way and it's the complete opposite to everyone else. All I did was codify it and it's probably the world's simplest idea. I call it the Golden Circle.*

Apple, Martin Luther King and the Wright Brothers all saw (or created) a need and fulfilled that need. What is the need Christian leaders fulfill? We believe it is to draw others to living a life of sacrifice for the purpose of the salvation of the world. It is the biggest objective ever imagined...to save the world!

The Public Pieces #1: The Interactive Puzzle

PARTICIPATION: With whom do I interact and how do I feed that interaction?

AUTHORITY IS A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP

Participatory leadership is not just leading by example; it is leading as a real and current "right now" example. It is getting your hands dirty alongside of those you lead. **Participatory leadership** is transformative, both for the leader and the follower, as it binds them together to the cause in a unique and real way.

Law of Awareness, Interview with John Maxwell

- *If I have time I am going to talk about the Law of Awareness which says you have to know yourself to grow yourself. And I don't hear many people talk about that. And I am going to talk to them about the fact that the goal is not to grow in every area. The goal is to grow the area where you are gifted, where you are strong. And so you have to know what that is before you determine what areas you are going to grow in. I am going to talk to them about how do you discover, how do you become aware about what you do well so you can really work on that and really grow in that area to really go up to a whole new level.*

Once you figure out how to develop the areas in which you are strong, you are then equipped to help others figure out and develop the areas in which *they* are strong. You hope they are strong in areas that you are not - you can give them the principles for developing whatever their talent is. That is part of **Participatory leadership**. It is doing it first, then doing it alongside of others and showing others how to do what they can do. Leadership is not to

develop people to be mirror images of you, but mirror images of the part of Christ that *they* can be that you may not be.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23: The Apostle Paul was able to work with people starting at their own level and background in order to draw them to Christ.



The Golden Circle, Why-How-What, Simon Sinek, TED Talk

- *Why, how, what. This little idea explains why some organizations and some leaders are able to inspire where others aren't. Let me define the terms really quickly. Every single person, every single organization on the planet knows what they do one hundred percent. Some know how they do it. Whether you call it your differentiating value proposition or your proprietary processor or USP. But very, very few people or organizations know why they do what they do. And by "why," I don't mean to make a profit. That's a result. That's always a result. By why I mean what's your purpose, what's your cause, what's your belief? Why does your organization exist? Why do you get out of bed in the morning and why should anyone care?*

WHAT IS YOUR "WHY" IN TERMS OF YOUR CHRISTIANITY?

Jesus constantly spoke of the several aspects of his own "why:" John 4:31-34: (NASB) **Why?** I don't care about what is for dinner. I am driven and nourished to accomplish the work of the ransom and restitution! He elevated the thinking of the disciples by his own example. A leader should have the proper "why" visible on the outside where others can see the focus.

Jesus' approach was in contrast with that of the approach of the Pharisees: Matthew 6:1-6: **Why?** Their "why" was to be noticed; to draw attention to themselves and not the Heavenly Father. Their "why" was to put distance between classes and to assert a self-proclaimed authority and place. This is idolatry personified!

DO WE DO THINGS IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES SO THAT WE CAN BE NOTICED?

PATIENCE: How well am I guiding individuals towards their best growth?

NEVER TELL PEOPLE HOW TO DO THINGS. TELL THEM WHAT TO DO AND THEY WILL SURPRISE YOU WITH THEIR INGENUITY.

Patient leadership is founded in deep conviction. One can only be truly patient if they are so thoroughly convinced that their vision and their direction are true. It is okay to have to wait for people to "get it." **Patient leadership** knows how to prioritize its focus. It knows that some things and some people absolutely require more patience than others and it truly applies patience with the bigger picture in mind.

We need to get the ego out of the way so that we can put our primary "why" in the way.

DOUBT AND CONTROVERSY ARE THE RICH SOIL IN WHICH PATIENT LEADERSHIP FLOURISHES!

Romans 14:1-4 Luke 21:19



Samuel Pierpont Langley, Simon Sinek, TED Talk

- *Samuel Pierpont Langley was given fifty thousand dollars by the war department to figure out this flying machine. Money was no problem. He held a seat at Harvard, worked at the Smithsonian and was extremely well connected. He knew all the big minds of the day. He hired the best minds money could find and the market conditions were fantastic. The New York Times followed him around everywhere and everyone was rooting for Langley...then how come we've never heard of Samuel Pierpont Langley?*

This sounds like the Pharisees, who were well funded, well educated, well connected and well supported for the task of building a spiritual environment in Israel: Luke 18:9-14: The Pharisees really had no time or use for anyone, except to use them as examples of how low society was compared to themselves. **An example of patient leadership:** Acts 17:22-25: (NASB) ²²So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. ²³For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God, who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with

hands; ²⁵nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.

Observations about Paul as a leader:

- Paul "beheld" their religious nature - he observed and looked for the patterns of where they were so he could identify with them.
- Paul examined their idols - he didn't turn his nose up at them in disgust;
- Paul sought to build on what was important to them by answering an important question;
- Paul gently proclaimed the Almighty;
- Paul gently informed them that the Almighty is above human ways and human hands, and
- Paul was patient! As a result, he was able to establish a Christian church in that area despite their Pagan perspective.

Patient leadership can effectively teach by giving the power of choice to those who follow:
Joshua 24:15

PASSION: Is my example one of authority of authentic action?

A TRUE LEADER IS NOT DETERMINED BY HIS OR HER TITLE. If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

Passionate leadership is movement and it creates movement in others. **Passionate leadership** engages those around it because when it is expressed it creates a disturbance in the status quo of the moment. This disturbance brings discomfort and this discomfort causes a shift in those who are following. They must now make a choice - either move towards the passion, to draw from it and become a part of it, or move away from the passion to try and regain their previous level of comfort. In either case, the follower must move!

Here is the passion of the Pharisees: Matthew 23:1-7: So, what was the object of their passion? What was the result? Their leadership was a self-absorbed approach to God.

The Wright Brothers' dream, Simon Sinek, TED Talk

- *A few hundred miles away in Dayton, Ohio, we have Orville and Wilbur Wright. They had none of what we consider to be the recipe of success. They had no money. They paid for their dream with the proceeds from their bicycle shop. Not a single person on the Wright Brother's team had a college education. Not even Orville or Wilbur. And The New York Times followed them around nowhere. The difference was Orville and Wilbur were driven by a cause, by a purpose, by a belief. They believed that if they could figure out this flying machine, it would change the course of the world.*

Here is the passion of Jesus - one of many different types of examples of his passion:
Luke 8:43-48: So, Jesus heals and as he does, it costs him something - but that is what he came for - to be spent in the service of the Gospel and to pay the ransom that cost him his life. He did not back away from giving. The Pharisees wanted to look good; Jesus wanted to give to others so that they could be good.

Jesus being put to the final test that would stretch his human capacity: Matthew 26:36-44

EVEN WHEN THE FOLLOWERS ARE NOT UP TO THE NECESSARY LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT, THE LEADER STILL PLOWS THROUGH.

The result, Simon Sinek, TED Talk

- *Samuel Pierpont Langley was different. He wanted to be rich and he wanted to be famous. He was in pursuit of the result. He was in pursuit of the riches. And lo and behold, look what happened. The people who believed in the Wright Brother's dream worked with them with blood and sweat and tears. The others just worked for the paycheck. And they tell stories of how every time the Wright Brothers went out they would have to take five sets of parts because that's how many times they would crash before they came in for supper. And eventually on December 17, 1903, the Wright*

Brothers took flight and no one was there to even experience it. We found out about it a few days later.

So much of Christianity today is about praying to God to make us rich. It is about a paycheck! But that is not the point of the Gospel, which is sacrifice for the sake of the world. Many people see God as a genie that will grant our wishes. This is not correct! We need to focus on what we can do for God through Christ. That is the correct "why" of Christian leadership. Christian leaders shouldn't "nag" others into submission.

PRO-ACTIVITY: Do I preach, teach and exude perception and preparedness?

A LEADER IS SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN YOU AND GETS YOU TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

Pro-active leadership is really a culmination of all the previous elements. Pro-activity becomes instinctive if we understand and apply these things within:

The Personal Pieces:

- *Principles - What are the core values that guide me?*
- *Priorities - What are the "most important things," the "True North" that I focus on?*
- *Performance - What am I doing and how am I doing it - right now?*
- *Potential - What am I growing towards and how am I feeding that growth?*

Pro-activity now becomes a tool of inspiration as we apply these things to the outside:

The Public Pieces:


- *Participation - With whom do I interact and how do I feed that interaction?*
- *Patience - How well am I guiding individuals towards their best growth?*
- *Passion - Is my example one of authority or authentic action?*

These all need to work together.

 **Attract those who believe as you, Simon Sinek, TED Talk**

- *And for the proof that Langley was motivated by the wrong thing, the day the Wright Brothers took flight he quit. He could have said, "That's an amazing discovery, guys, and I will improve upon your technology," but he didn't. He wasn't first. He didn't get rich. He didn't get famous, so he quit. People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it. And if you talk about what you believe you will attract those who believe what you believe.*

But even the Pharisees were pro-active...to capture and kill Jesus! John 11:47-50: If we are driven by the right principles, we should all be working towards the same goal.

 **Leaders and those who lead, Simon Sinek, TED Talk**

- *Leaders hold a position of power or authority, but those who lead inspire us. Whether they are individuals or organizations, we follow those who lead not because we have to but because we want to. We follow those who lead not for them but for ourselves. And it's those who start with "why," that have the ability to inspire those around them or find others who inspire them.*

Examples of the Apostle Paul leading Timothy on a path to learn to lead others:

2 Timothy 2:14-16: Paul again encouraging Timothy to lead in spite of potential opposition:

1 Timothy 4:10-16: Know the "why" and teach those things! *Be absorbed* in these things because you will live what you believe and will become a living epistle to those around you.

Christian leadership, by definition, has to be the most well-rounded leadership in all of the world. It is not just about accomplishing a business goal but a life goal for the leader's life, the followers' lives and the salvation of the world. That is what Christian leadership is about. We need to participate in such a way so that others will want to follow.

*So, what makes a true Christian leader?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*