

Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 7th November 2021
Sermon Title Spiritual Gift of Leadership
Bible Passage Romans 12:1-8

Recapping the preach

Nick began by reiterating what Stu had spoken about as Spiritual gifts being used for good - they are to build up other Christians and to glorify God in the church and in the world.

Nick spoke about the challenge of reflecting on what our beliefs are on the caricatures of leaders, and how these highlight the importance of recognising the huge impact our lives have on other people. He gave examples of his own pre-Christian ideas of what leaders should be, and how that influenced his own leadership which in turn influenced others.

Leadership can be defined by being 3 things; Leadership as a FUNCTION, POSITION and TALENT. *Function* is influencing others, *Position* of responsibility and *Talent* which is “not just what you can do, but what you can’t help yourself doing”.

The gift of Leadership is about primarily following the Kingdom of God’s agenda (God’s will) and not ours or others (Matt 26:39). It is marked by humility and servanthood and being rooted in the Bible and the Spirit which together illuminate God’s will for us and others.

Anyone can be an influencer or in a position of leadership, and have talent - but do they possess the characteristics of God and the Spiritual gift of leadership to positively build up the church and by doing so glorify the people and God?

Christ done this by; longing to fulfil the purposes God has for his beloved people; being radical, taking risks, self-sacrificial and forgiving; wholly dependent on God the Father as we are to be through the gift of the Holy Spirit, who takes our strengths and weaknesses and transforms them for God’s purposes and glory.

Nick asked people who may think they have a gift of leadership or see this gift in someone else to ask themselves; Do I/They influence people? Do I/They have confidence in my/their ability to lead people? Do people look to me/Them for a final word in a discussion? And, Do I/They lead and rise to the top of difficult situations?

God can give the gift of leadership to anyone - it is the expression of God's grace in ordinary people's lives.

• Questions for reflection

- Have your assumptions of leadership been challenged in any way, as we look to Jesus as a humble servant who seeks the will of God and the best of others above his own will?
- What assumptions have been challenged considering some of Nick's that he shared growing up?
- If Romans 12:1-2 shows us that our lives are ongoing Christ like transformation – does this change your perception of leadership?
- If Romans 12:3 is genuine humility about ourselves – what new light does this shine on what leadership is?
- If Romans 12:4-5 is recognition of belonging to the body and needing one another – what would be the primary objective of a leader of God's people?
- How does the language of 'Gift' encourage us that this is something from God and not from us? What should this accomplish?
- Think about your experience of Christian leadership and that of Secular leadership. It has been said that "We cannot operate as consultants for a people we don't know" and that "Ministry at a distance, be it physical or relational is simply not an option for Christian Leadership" – is this true of your Christian experience and how might it need to change?

• Going Deeper

- Leadership involves accepting our uniqueness and celebrating the uniqueness of others....Why?
- Crippling diseases in Christian leadership are *Comparison* and *Competition*...What do these lead to? (Hint: P**** & D*****t)
- Why?

Response

- Ask of ourselves and others who may have the gift of Leadership;
Do I\They influence people?
Do I/They have confidence in my/their ability to lead people?
Do people look to me/Them for a final word in a discussion?
Do I/They lead and rise to the top of difficult situations?
Do I/They seek humility to be a servant?
- If so, seek God in prayer asking for the gift of leadership
- Seek wise counsel
- Nudge open the doors to test and prove what God's will is for you and others (Rom 12:2b).

Prayer pointers

- That the Holy Spirit would raise up Godly leaders in the church
- That we would be able to recognise (or not) these gifts in people we know
- Courage to allow our uniqueness to shine for God's purposes and not ours or others.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>