

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-15

Topic: Becoming Mature In Our
Ministry & Leadership

INTRODUCTION: It is possible for people with leadership _____ to have many of the talents and qualifications to be in _____ and be a leader, but yet lack maturity which renders them ineffective.

I. LEARN HOW TO FOLLOW:

A. *Good Leader = Good Follower:*

1. Jesus called twelve _____ to be the founders and _____ of His Church, but when He called them He requested of them that they _____ Him first. Mt. 4:19
2. These ministers and leaders to be had the _____ to lead, but before they could become effective, it was necessary for them to learn how to submit themselves to the one _____ them. Jn. 13:16

B. *No Following – No Leading:*

1. There are people who have God given _____ to be in ministry and leadership, but because they do not learn how to submit and _____ instructions from those God has placed over them, they fail.
2. Not being able to _____ another leader is a sign of immaturity and selfishness and unless this is corrected in an individual, they will never become an _____ minister and leader. 3 Jn. 1:9

II. CARE ABOUT THE SMALL THINGS:

A. *Faithfulness In Little:*

1. Jesus taught His followers that He was preparing for leadership and _____ that if one planned to a great _____ one day, they would first have to learn the lesson of being faithful in little things. Lk. 16:10
2. The twelve got into discussions over who was going to be the _____ one in the new Kingdom of Jesus and Jesus informed them more than once that if they didn't learn the _____ of doing the _____ things, they would never be faithful in a great position. Mk. 9:33-37

B. *Mature Leaders Pay Attention To Little Things:*

1. A great leader and minister will _____ about the little things even when they are given great responsibility and authority as they develop and _____ in ministry.
2. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus taught about one individual who was give one small _____ to be responsible for, but he was not even faithful in one small _____ and thus ended up wasting his time and facing judgment for not being faithful in the little things. Mt. 25:28-30

III. GENUINELY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE:

A. *People – Not Position:*

1. An immature leader or _____ may care more about their own position and self-image than they care about the _____ that they are supposed to be ministering to. Lk. 20:46
2. This kind of immature leadership will end up _____ people instead of helping them to receive and

will try to exercise power and control instead of helping people grow in their _____ with God. Mt. 20: 25,26

B. Care – Really Care:

1. A mature leader and minister will have a genuine care and _____ for the people that God places in their circle and will want to seek to _____ them rather than try to impress them. 2 Cor. 12:15
2. A mature individual will care more about _____ than about _____ and will seek to help people move forward and _____ in the Lord ahead of getting self-promotion. Phil. 4:1

IV. RECOGNIZE THAT YOU CAN'T MAKE IT ALONE:

A. Not Self Made:

1. Some immature individuals proclaim that they are self-made _____ but as one wise man noted, "if you see a turtle sitting on a fence post please realize that it didn't get _____ by itself."
2. People who declare themselves to be self-made usually are egoists who don't recognize that _____ a mother, they wouldn't have been _____ and raised, and without the _____ and input of other people, they wouldn't have or know anything. 1 Cor. 4:7

B. Recognition Of Others:

1. A mature leader and _____ will understand that he/she has roots that they got from the leadership of others and that many teachers and elders have given _____ into what they have now become today. Eph. 4:1,2
2. A mature leader and _____ values the input and experience of elders and teachers and no matter how long they are leading, they still want to learn _____ from others. Phil. 3:12-14

CONCLUSION: Though our physical _____ reaches maturity in early adulthood, our spiritual maturity is an ever ongoing _____ that will continue until Jesus comes and as leaders we must seek to continually learn and improve to be more effective _____ in the work of God.