

The Big 3

Part Two

By Steve Shoop

Last quarter we began to look at the “BIG THREE”. These are principles that Jesus demonstrated in His ministry that will greatly enhance our lives and work today. These principles are a great help in any ministry situation. They will help you to achieve the goal of the Gospel.

1. It is not my job to change people.
2. I must provide truth in a safe environment.
3. I must provide practical application of that truth.

We looked at the first principle “it is not my job to change people”, in our last article. This time let’s focus on providing truth and applying that truth in a safe environment.

The second Big Thing I should remind myself of is to provide an environment that is conducive to change. The Holy Spirit will do the work, but I can provide a safe place where people do not feel condemned or rejected for their faults and failures. It is in that type of environment that God works. Jesus was the personification of God in the flesh, completely righteous and holy yet the worst of the worst felt comfortable in His presence. In short they felt safe that He would not condemn them even though their sins were many.

An exposure to God’s goodness is what leads men to a place of change. God will give the ability (grace) to change, but I must work in a way that is consistent with Him. Only when we make people feel

loved, will they be able to believe that God loves them. If we pressure them to conform, they are likely to become defensive and resistant.

Thirdly, I must model truth. Truth has to become practical for it to be able to be applied in life. Without this application, lasting change will never take place. I should show how it works in my life as a minister. If I can not, then I should work to provide some illustrations that will help people see it applied in a practical way. People can only believe what they can see. If you can not make this possible with physical eyes then make it so they can see it with their heart. As communicators, we can and must communicate in ways that help people see truth as possible in their own lives.

Some will move through this process of change quickly but others will be reluctant to do anything and still others will walk things out slowly, based on the level they may have of self-worth.

I cannot determine the rate of change for others based on my own personal life experience of over 40 years. As ministers, we must apply patience and allow people to process truth.

These big three guidelines will help the people you are serving in ministry but will not come naturally. Our impatience with the process often causes us to resort to un-Christ like methods in ministry. We want people to change and we want it now. God is not in a hurry and desires that all of His children

experience the best of life. To do that, He will work in them to do His good pleasure. He is long-suffering and we should be too. He will help you and provide His grace to help in the time you need it. ☂



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From front page

MONEY MATTERS 2

We should build a structure and have procedures that breed trust, not suspicion. It should be right and it should look right.

The mandate that God has given you is so important. It is His plan that all of your ministry needs be met in abundance. Trust Him and follow Biblical guidelines to see the provision of God. ☂



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The Established Heart

God’s Word and Wisdom for Pastors

December 2007

MONEY MATTERS 2

By Walker Schurz

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8-9

This promise is very similar to the familiar Philippians 4:19, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

It is interesting to note that these promises were specifically made to local churches. Paul was addressing the churches at Corinth and Philippi. It should be noted that these promises were made to churches that corporately were commended for their generous giving.

We clearly see that it is God’s will for the vision of the ministry or local church to be fully funded. He desires for it to have a complete supply and extra to be a blessing to other good works.

Scriptures show us that the local church is funded through the tithes of its members. God knew that ten percent would adequately fund the necessary ministries of a local church when each person does their share. As a pastor and leader, part of our job is to help teach and inspire people to give from their hearts.

Here are a few practical tips that will help those entrusted to you to be faithful tithers and generous givers:

1. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Others will not go where you do not lead. From your personal finances, do you give ten percent of all your income to the church and give offerings above the tithe? As pastors, we are not exempt from being Christians. The priests of the Old Covenant were instructed to tithe from what they received from the people (Numbers 18:25). It is impossible to inspire people to travel down a path that you do not travel on yourself.

2. TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT GIVING

Money and giving should certainly not be the sermon for every Sunday, but we should allow people to see for themselves the instruction and blessing that the Scriptures teach about financial stewardship. Our motive in teaching should be to help our people to follow God in their finances, not just to boost the income of the church. People can tell if a leader is trying to help them or use them for selfish purposes. Realize this process will take time and be patient and refuse to use non-Biblical tactics like manipulation and guilt to motivate them to give.

3. RECEIVE OFFERINGS WISELY

It is certainly good to inspire people around the time of the offering in the service, but a separate twenty minute sermon on giving every Sunday will probably wear people out.

4. DO NOT MISUSE DESIGNATED FUNDS

Make sure that offerings received for a specific purpose like a building, special project or outreach is used in that area. As people see an honest track record over time, it will breed trust. Consider opening a separate bank account for specific projects so that it is easy to know how the funds are being used.

5. HANDLE THE OFFERING HONORABLY

People can become suspect if they feel the money they are giving is not handled in a responsible way. We see in 2 Corinthians 8 that Titus was chosen to travel with a large offering for the sake of integrity. Paul sums up his heart: “We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.” 2 Corinthians. 8:20, 21. As leaders, we are not immune to temptation.

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The Secret of SERVANT LEADERSHIP

By John Maxwell

After Princess Diana was killed in a tragic car accident, 2 ½ billion people tuned in to watch her televised funeral. Not only Great Britain, but the entire world, mourned her death. What accounted for the public's emotional attachment to Princess Di?

Certainly, royalty and beauty attributed to Princess Diana's popularity, but something else connected her to the hearts of people across the globe. Looks and lineage may have landed her on magazine covers, but Princess Di had an endearing quality that gave her even greater appeal. **Princess Diana was beloved because she was a servant leader.**

For centuries, royal families epitomized self-serving leadership. Comfortably removed from the day to day troubles of those in their kingdom, they enjoyed opulent wealth and absolute power. Princess Diana broke the stereotype. She leveraged her popularity to lend support for AIDS research, to care for those with leprosy, and to ban land mines. In fact, the force of Diana's compassion was so influential that *Time Magazine* named her one of the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century.

Five Practices That Help Leaders Serve Others

1. See the Future

Leaders have a compelling vision for the future stirring inside of them. The vision makes plain a leader's identity, direction, and pattern of behaviour. To affect the future, a leader spreads values throughout an organization. These values are core beliefs that become the cornerstones of organizational culture. A wise leader publishes the values so that they can be repeated, recognized, and rewarded. A leader cannot delegate the responsibility to see the future. They may share the responsibility, but ultimately, it's the leader's job to make time today to ensure the direction of tomorrow.

2. Engage and Develop Others

To create the future a leader envisions, he or she must have the right people, in the right roles, fully engaged to their work. Everything that you will accomplish as a leader ultimately hinges on the people you have around you. As the Law of the Inner Circle says, "A leader's potential is determined by those closest to him or her."

Sadly, many people's talents languish on the job because they are disengaged. Likely, the greatest waste in business is human potential. Leaders pull out the potential inside of their people by inspiring and motivating. They are quick to offer opportunities for growth, be mentors, or equip their employees with resources.

3. Reinvent Continuously

Great leaders reinvent continuously on a personal level. They are always interested in ways to enhance their own knowledge and skills. The very best leaders are learners. They realize that if they stop learning, they will stop leading. A leader sets the tone of the organization. If they cease growing personally, then the majority of those they lead will become stagnant as well. Reinvention is critical to survival. The solutions to problems of the past are inadequate to address the demands of today. Leaders must have fresh, innovative thinking and new ideas to respond to the challenges the organization faces.

4. Value results and relationships

When it comes to results and relationships, the best leaders take a both/and approach. A focus solely on results demoralizes the team, while an overemphasis on relationships undercuts the bottom line due to conflict avoidance and an absence of accountability. The greatest leaders make friends *and* profits. Leaders earn relational capital, and put it to work to gain results. As the Law of Connection states, "leaders touch a heart before they ask for a hand."

5. Embody Values

All genuine leadership is built on trust. Leaders build trust when they establish, articulate, model, and enforce values. In short, they walk the talk. If I say customers are important, my actions had better support that statement. If I choose to live as if customers are not important, people will have reason to question my trustworthiness. And in the final analysis, if I am deemed untrustworthy by my people, I will not be trusted – or followed as a leader. ☂



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Back to Courage

By Steve McMichael

Once there was a man. He awoke to the sound of his alarm clock. He turned it off and rolled over. His wife shook him and told him to get up- "It is Sunday. It is time to go to church." "I don't want to go to church", he exclaimed. "The people are judgmental, the music is awful and I have not gotten anything out of the sermon in months. I am not going today!"

His wife gently rebuked him. "The people are not that bad, they love you. The music is getting better and the sermons are not that bad..." She pulled back the covers. "Besides", she said with a firmer tone. "You have to go, you are the pastor!" Ever been there?

Discouragement comes to all of us. What we do with it is entirely up to us. Look at the word discourage. It has two parts; dis means not or lose. Courage means valor or bravery. Discouragement is the losing of courage and with it motivation. Encouragement is a reinfusion of courage.

God has given us tools to build our lives and weapons to combat discouragement. Among these is proper use of your memory. Some abuse the past. They remember failure (or sometimes past victory) and refuse to try again. But the past, properly used can motivate us to overcome discouragement.

Here are three proper uses of the past.

First. Remember God

Deuteronomy 8:18 is often quoted in financial matters because it promises blessing. It begins "Remember the Lord ..." Our lives are more blessed than we usually think about. When we remember God and what He thinks about us, what He has done for us, then we are encouraged back to courage. When you remember who is backing you, courage infuses into you. But that is only the first proper use of the past.

Secondly. God uses People

Even the apostle Paul was encouraged by others (II Corinthians 7:6). Who has encouraged, comforted and taught you? Remember when you

did not see a way forward and someone showed it to you? Remember the kindness you received that was undeserved? Many times the acts are forgotten or never seen at all if we are discouraged. Albert Schweitzer said "Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into a flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light." This kind of remembering takes us back to courage.

Finally. God's work and Peoples kindness are encouraging

A final source of courage is your calling. God called you and He will see you through it. God reminded Gideon of his calling when he need strength (Judges 6:14). When you need strength (or courage) remember God's calling. He meant for you to succeed. We cannot afford to be intimidated or prideful when it comes to serving God. Both of these things rob us of courage. God designed you. You were created to do good works. When circumstances or people threaten your confidence, remember your call. Allow that time and awareness to reaffirm God's calling. Let it take you back to courage. ☂



Steve McMichael has been with Africa Outreach since 2003. He also serves as an associate pastor at Miracle Life Family Church.



March 2008 Pastors Conference

Plan to attend Pastors and Leaders Conference to be hosted by Africa Outreach in Lusaka. Be part of the anointed preaching, topics include: *Godly Counsel, Faith and Victorious Christian Living.*

Conference Speakers

- Rev. Mosa Sona
 - Rev. Phil Privette
 - Pastor Walker Schurz
 - And others
- Grace Bible Church, South Africa
Victory Life Church, USA
Miracle Life Family Church, Lusaka

Who can attend?

- Bishops
- Pastors
- Ministry Staff
- Evangelists
- Missionaries
- Youth Pastors
- Apostles
- Branch Elders
- Worship Leaders

Date: 11 - 15 March 2008

Venue: Miracle Life Family Church, Lusaka

Kindly note that due to limited space, registration is required to attend this conference. Please fill in and return the registration card enclosed.

For more information, please phone Pastor Ken at +260 (211) 292286/ 256861 or email: office@africaoutreach.net.