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Lead 703 Biblical Leadership Week 8

Case Study Paul as Leader Acts 13-18

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July 12, 2020

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Kliewer & Gatlin (2020) posits some of the difficult and trying times that Paul went through as a leader. His relationship and dependency on Jesus shaped his reactions and responses. Saul, (Paul) educated in the ways of the self-righteous Pharisees who ultimately helped arrange for Jesus' death and had no love for Christians before his conversion. He was willing to go into people's homes to find those believing in "the way," arrest them, then throw them in prison (Acts 8).

Did Paul and Barnabas Begin Preaching on their own?

Acts 13-18 (NKJV) reports where Paul and Barnabas were sent to the Gentiles at Antioch's church, where there were certain prophets and teachers. Barnabas, Simeon, called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, (verse 2) "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, laid hands on them, and sent them away (verse 3). Paul and Barnabas, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there, they sailed to Cyprus (verse 5). When they arrived in Salamis, they preached the Word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant. The Holy Spirit guided them to the island of Paphos. They were confronted by a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, (verse 7), who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the Word of God.

Nevertheless, Elymas, (verse 8) the sorcerer withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith (verse 9). Then Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him (verse 10) and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, (verse 11).

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Furthermore, the Lord's hand is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.”

Moreover, immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand (verse 12). Then the proconsul believed when he saw and was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. These acts were written and expressed the real leadership powers from the Holy Spirit through Paul by Jesus.

However, of all the disciples in Jerusalem, Barnabas was willing to set aside Paul's history of persecution and give him a new chance to prove himself as a Christian convert. And in doing that, God used Barnabas to give the church the most significant missionary and theologian it has ever had, namely, the Apostle Paul (Acts 9:26–30)

Was there a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas?

Perhaps this was the primary instance of Barnabas' patience with the failures of others. He was known as the son of encouragement (Acts 4:36). He wanted to give John Mark another chance, and he wanted to do it right away. Nevertheless, Paul disagreed. The disagreement was profound. It could not be resolved. Although their friendship went back at least fifteen years, they were owing to each other so much, parted company. Neither would yield. Perhaps the church inclined to the side of Paul. Acts 15:40 it says that the brethren commended Paul and Silas to the grace of the Lord. It does not say this about the departure of Barnabas and John Mark.

Was It Because of the Wrong Behavior of Peter and Barnabas?

Piper (2020) posits sometime before the separation between Barnabas and Paul (in Acts 15:36), there had been another run-in of a much more severe kind. Peter had come down to Antioch from Jerusalem and enjoyed his Christian freedom by eating with the Gentile Christians. Then some of the stricter party in the Jerusalem church came who did not approve of this kind of freedom. The

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response of Peter and the other Jews and even Barnabas was utterly unacceptable to Paul.

Galatians (2:11–14). When Cephas came to Antioch, Paul opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. Before certain men came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party when they came. The rest of the Jews acted insincerely, and Barnabas was carried away by their insincerity.

However, when I saw that they were not straightforward about the gospel's truth, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" In other words, Peter and Barnabas's behavior amounted to a new commandment to the Gentiles that they must virtually become Jews. The writer continues to notice what was at stake here. It was the truth of the gospel (verse 14).

Actions that are so contradicting the truth of the gospel could not be acceptable. Paul knew that when the truth goes, the gospel goes, and when the gospel goes, the souls of men perish. This was Paul's high strength, and he never forgot that truth issues are ultimately people's issues. Peter and Barnabas were wrong. Their actions were out of step with the truth of the gospel. Why had Barnabas been swept away in this error? Why did a few men coming from Jerusalem cause Peter and Barnabas to conform to their expectations rather than stand up for the principle of gospel liberty? Here considered of Paul, was the weakness of a great man. Here the simmer of fanaticism bursts on the needle of reality. However, our hero was human, therefore imperfect.

Did Paul have imperfections once zealous for Judaism?

Paul's zealousness knew no bounds. Scripture says he initiated going to the High Priest to hunt down Christians, bringing them to Jerusalem in chains for punishment (Acts 9:1 - 2). It took a blinding light from heaven and the booming voice of Christ himself to get Paul's attention as he traveled to Damascus (Acts 9:3 - 6, 8 - 9). His travel was for the expressed purpose of finding

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believers in the synagogues, arresting them, then taking them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

The bright light caused Paul to lose sight for three days, which got his attention and gave him time to repent.

However, Paul's leadership for Christ began during his trip to Damascus that the critical event in his life occurred. A spotlight from heaven shined on him (Saul) during his travel, and the voice of Jesus asked, "Saul, why do you persecute Me?" (Acts 9:4) God strikes him blind, and his traveling companions lead him to the city. That event leads to his total repentance and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. God heals him of his blindness. After his conversion, the same zeal and single-minded dedication Paul had against Christianity transforms into an overactive-like quest to spread the gospel worldwide. His amazing ministry lasts thirty-five years until his death at the age of sixty-six. His accomplishments are astonishing, given the primary by today's standard. Based on the level of transportation and other difficulties that existed in the first century. Important events and accomplishments in Paul's life were personally taught by Jesus, for three years, while living in Arabia. During his ministry, he resurrects at least one person from the dead and is resurrected himself after being stoned to death. Paul carries out at least five evangelistic journeys, visits more than fifty cities in his travels, and preached the gospel to Emperor Caesar and his entire household.

According to (Mack 2019), Paul had twenty-one leadership traits (Acts: 20). Looking over that list consisted of humility and servant-hearted as a leader (verse 19). Paul possessed integrity (verse never hesitating to preach the Word, no matter what the consequences. He was committed to his leadership as a devoted teacher of God's Word regardless of the setting. Non-prejudice taught anyone whether Jew or Gentile (verse 21), compassionate, with a heart for bringing lost people to Christ (verse 21).

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The writer posits Paul as Visionary. He could leave this earth knowing he had done all he could do, with no regrets (verse 26). Passionate, never holding anything back. Those who heard him got one hundred percent of the Good News (verse 27). As a Shepherd developer, he cared for and invested in people (28). their responses can be to him are written in verses 37, 38). Paul also had traits for understanding the reality of spiritual warfare (Acts 20: 30). As a warrior, he cared about the church and wanted them to protect it against the evil one (verse 31). Paul Was not greedy or even interested in the world's riches (verse 33). These leadership traits were examples of Paul's diligence, responsibilities of giving, and devoted to prayer. Full of character as a converted leader.

Chamberlin (2017) reports upon research, although Apostle Paul may never have written a journal article or book about leadership, it is nevertheless possible to glean some inferences from his inspired writings. As an effective leader with the inclusion of corresponding biblical text and excerpt from the leadership literature. Paul expressed himself as an effective Leader seeking to appreciate the diversity of giftedness. He gave men gifts for equipping the saints for the work of service, to the building up of Christ's body. To be fitted and held together by which every joint supplied, according to the proper working of each part, causing the body's growth to build itself in love. (Ephesians 4:8, 12, 15, 16 NASB).

Moreover, Paul sought unity in the context of diversity. The scriptures state, "I exhort you that you all agree, speak the same things, and there be no divisions or schisms among you, completely united in the same mind and the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). Paul realized Christ-centered leaders appreciate each person's uniqueness; from that, it seemed to flow quite naturally to nurture the environments that support bringing people together to the community, collaboration, commitment, and creativity. Finally, Paul sought a high level of

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moral maturity following with this scriptural statement. 'Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? The temple of God is holy, and that is what you are, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to you.' (I Corinthians 3:16, 17) Through personal, exemplary role-modeling, Paul sort of being an effective leader. One must develop a corporate culture that would maintain high commitments to moral and ethical behavior.

Concluding was Paul a Leader or a Preacher?

As a transformational leader, the Apostle Paul established the church of Jesus Christ throughout the known world. He was a change agent in its most dramatic and courageous sense. Leaders of today who wish to transform our world would do well to study and follow the characteristics of leadership taught and exemplified by the Apostle Paul (Chamberlin 2017). It took time for Paul to think of himself as a pastor. Initially, he believed his duty was establishing churches staying with them for a year or so to initiate them into what it meant to live as Christians. In many areas of the scriptures, Paul Acts 13:1-2 calls Paul a “prophet” and a “teacher.” He was the prophet that he spoke on behalf of the God of the Bible. In 1 Corinthians 13:2, he claimed to have “the gift of prophecy.” He was one of the “prophets” and one of the “teachers” referenced in Ephesians 4:11. Therefore one could posit Paul as God’s Apostle, preacher, teacher, evangelist, and a transformational leader.

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