

01: WHAT IS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP?

Episode Notes

Spiritual leadership involves leading God's people towards God's purposes. A spiritual leader isn't called to lead people toward their own preferences, the building of a brand, or even the building of a particular church. It is a servant-hearted role that promotes others ahead of yourself (Philippians 2:3-4) for the glory of God alone. In this podcast, we define the expectations and calling of a spiritual leader.

Key Takeaways

- Everyone is called to influence others. Leadership isn't reserved for a few—it's a calling for every follower of Jesus to shape others through the Great Commission.
- Servant leadership is biblical leadership. The world borrows the idea, but true servant leadership finds its roots in the life and teachings of Jesus.
- Leadership begins with humility. You can't lead like Jesus if you aren't first willing to serve like Jesus.
- God equips the called. You may feel unqualified, but God supplies what's needed when you say "yes" to His calling.
- Influence starts at home and expands outward. Spiritual leadership isn't about titles—it's about faithfulness where God has placed you.
- Leaders multiply leaders. Healthy leadership doesn't stop with personal growth; it invests in others to carry the mission forward.
- Raising spiritual leaders advances God's Kingdom. When believers live out their influence, the church becomes a movement, not a meeting.

Discussion Questions

1. Defining Spiritual Leadership

- How would you personally define spiritual leadership based on Jesus' example?
- What's the difference between having influence and having spiritual authority?
- In your life, where do you see leadership being elevated above servanthood?

2. The Role of Every Believer

- The conversation stated, "God has raised up specific people to be certain leaders, but God has also raised up everybody to influence others." How does that shape the way you view your role in discipling others?
- What barriers do you think prevent people around you from embracing their call to influence others for Christ?

3. Leadership vs. Discipleship

- How are spiritual leadership and discipleship connected?
- What might it look like for you to more intentionally equip and release others to lead spiritually rather than do all the leading yourself?

4. Servant Leadership and Culture

- The episode mentioned that much of modern “servant leadership” simply paraphrases Scripture. What are some biblical examples of servant leadership that challenge today’s leadership culture?
- How do you practice self-sacrifice instead of self-promotion?

5. Reflection and Vulnerability

- Think about a time you failed as a spiritual leader. What did you learn from that experience that changed how you lead today?
- How do you intentionally bring others with you in ministry instead of leading alone?

6. Defining the Win

- Pastor Joel mentioned the importance of defining “what the biblical win is.” How would you define a win in your leadership that aligns with Jesus’ model of leadership?
- What stories or examples in your life demonstrate true spiritual leadership worth celebrating?

Next Steps

1. Practice Followership

- a. Before stepping into leadership, identify spiritual leaders to follow.
- b. Look for people whose lives demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit and a walk worthy of the Gospel.
- c. Learn humility, patience, and wisdom by observing and imitating their example.

2. Share With One Person

- a. Take intentional steps to share your faith or the Gospel with at least one person.
- b. This is a practical exercise in spiritual leadership and discipleship.
- c. It helps you evaluate your readiness to influence and serve others.

3. Sacrifice in One Area

- a. Identify an area of your life—time, resources, comfort—that you can sacrificially give for God's kingdom.
- b. Use this as a spiritual growth exercise to test and stretch your willingness to serve and lead like Jesus.

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