

# Study Session #4 — Committed to the Work

Wednesday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m.

- **Review**

- What we are talking about in this STUDY and the Sunday night TRAINING is the 5 C's of Leadership. These are basic, Biblical principles for Christian Leaders in the local church. And they go like this...
- THE VERY BEST LEADERS IN THE CHURCH ARE...
  - ◆ those who are Connected to Jesus
  - ◆ and are Christlike in Character
  - ◆ Caring Towards All
  - ◆ **Committed to the Work (TONIGHT!),**
  - ◆ and finally, those who are Centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- **The Three Commitments Every Leader Must Make...**

- #1: Commit the Time
  - ◆ **James 4:13-15, "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."**
    - ◆ James instructs us to invite the Lord into the ways in which we plan and use our time. Therefore, the first and obvious question is this: Has the Lord Jesus Christ called you to spend the time He has given you on leading people onto God's agenda? If yes, then you can move forward by counting the time commitment costs. If the answer is no, then there isn't any shame in that. It simply means God has gifted you to serve in different ways. Either way, there will be a time commitment cost that we must consider.
  - ◆ **Luke 14:28-32, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and**

***wasn't able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace."***

- ◆ Though what Jesus is talking about here is discipleship as a whole, his advice (or command?) most certainly applies to those considering a leadership position. When you feel led to give your commitment to lead something (or serve in some other way) you must make part of the decision making process an evaluation of the time you can commit to the work. If you overestimate how much time you have to give to a leadership role or if you underestimate the amount of time it will require, you will inevitably do a less than great job OR you'll burn yourself out trying to do a great job under impossible circumstances. So, the obvious two questions need to be answered: 1) Do you understand the time commitment required and 2) Can you meet it based on the time God has given you? If the answer to both is YES, then run after it! If the answer is NO to the first, then get more info. If it's NO to the second, then consider how you might free yourself up to fulfill the commitment the work requires. Remember, every YES you give is also NO you must also give. If you say you'll give your time to leading this or that, you are also saying that you will not give that time to doing something else. If you are under the illusion that you can say YES without a NO, you set yourself (and those you attempt to lead) for failure. Perhaps it need not be said, but if you feel compelled to lead and you understand the requirement, but there is nothing you can scape off your plate, then perhaps God is simply preparing you for a future YES to a leadership role.
- #2: Commit to Being Responsible
  - ◆ ***Romans 8:6a;8b, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is...if it is to lead, do it diligently."***
    - ◆ The blame game is as old as the Old Testament, where we read the account of our first parents after they introduced sin into the world: ***Genesis 3:12-13, "The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the***

*woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."* Taking on the responsibility to lead means you can't blame others or circumstances when things don't work out or turn out as well as you'd hoped. Rather, you have to choose to take the responsibility of making it happen and/or making it better next time. You have to choose to not let your mind go to: "Well, if they would have or wouldn't have or if this or that didn't happen...then I would have succeeded." Yes, things happen outside of your control, but the best leaders don't spend much time thinking about or focusing on or blaming their poor performance on what they can't control. Perhaps they acknowledge it and then move on to what they can control, asking questions like: In light of present challenges, how might I respond so that things move forward? Okay, so it didn't go as well as I had hoped, what might I do in the future to improve things? Even—That was great! Now, how can I help us repeat this success? The questions in the mind of the best leaders who are committed to the work is this: What do **I** need to do or not do? Not—What did others do or did not do? Poor leaders blame. The very best leaders take responsibility.

○ #3: Commit to Doing Your Best

◆ ***Colossians 3:17;23, "17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him... 23Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters"***

◆ We do not lead for our own sake. And we do not lead, first and foremost, for the sake of others. Leadership, like all things done in the life of a Christian, should be done for God and in the name of Jesus. Because this is true, mediocre work will never do. Life and leadership, submitted under the Lordship of Jesus Christ demands that we do our best with what we have. By doing so, we set for others an example of servant leadership that Jesus would be proud of because we have done the best we could in our **planning** (think ahead of time what needs to be done, why it needs to be done, how it needs to be done, what it will require, etc.) and in our **preparation** (actually beginning to get things going, gathering those you lead, talking through the plan, making adjustments to the plan, setting out a course, gathering the supplies, etc.) and in

our **execution** of those plans (we show up prayed up, pumped up, and early). Simply put, when the moments of leadership come, we serve as if it were dinner time and Jesus is coming over.

- ◆ Though our servant leadership is first and foremost about seeking to please Jesus, we are also serving and leading PEOPLE and people are God's most prized possession. We are serving fellow image bearers, made in the image of God and we want to do good by them. They deserve our best leadership because they matter, to us and to God. Sometimes, in the context of preaching, I think about how everyone present will be a loved child of someone, precious to them, and needing desperately to hear from God. Or I'll think about how someone in the congregation may be lost, someone that someone has been praying diligently would be found. That changes the way I approach preaching! You, too, will lead someone loved by somebody, the most important Somebody being Jesus, himself.

- **Conclusion**

- If we have considered the time cost and freely given our yes, if we are willing to take on the weight of responsibility of leadership and if seek to do our best for God's glory and for the good of others, then we are truly Committed to the Work of Christian Leadership in the Local Church!

- **Reminders**

- Don't forget, it's not too late to sign up for the Leadership Training on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC Fellowship Hall. Simply email me at [church@fbckenedy.org](mailto:church@fbckenedy.org).
- Also, you can watch last week's study and get notes from both Wednesday and Sunday, at [www.fbckenedy.org/lead](http://www.fbckenedy.org/lead).