

1 Timothy 5:17-25

Leading Leaders

In Psalm 138:2 David makes a very interesting statement about the Lord
You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

A) This is not to diminish the importance of the name of God.

Ps 8:1 Oh LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

Ps 75:1

**We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!
For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.**

Ps 135:13

**13 Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations.**

B) The name of God was magnified above everything else as far as the Jew was concerned

C) The name of God, the name Yahweh or Jehovah, was held in such high reverence by the Jews.

1) They would not pronounce the name of God. They felt that it was too holy to cross the lips of mortal man.

D) Spelled it no vowels just consonants YHWH

1) That is why we don't know how to pronounce it.

But there in Psalm 138 David says God holds has magnified His word above His name! Why?

A) It is thru His word that God has chosen to reveal Himself!

B) God wants to be Known! He desires to be worshipped!

1) He ASKS to be LOVED by His Creation.

C) His heart is focused on RELATIONSHIP!

D) It is thru His word that fallen man – impacted by sin that separates him from God – learns how He can have a relationship w/ God – **Thru His Son JESUS**

E) That is what is first and foremost on the heart of God – **A relationship w/ You & w/ Me!**

1) Know Him / experience Him / Learn of Him – For that reason He magnifies His word above His name!

And it is also for that reason the Lord declares here in 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

God says we are to hold in High regard those who labor in His word.

A) One of the reasons I love being the Pastor of this Church – **Because you do this!**

B) Over the yrs myself and my family the other Pastors here – have felt very appreciated.

1) Thankful for that !

C) Been said that Pastors are often the favorite topic of Sunday Lunch time conversation.

1) One Pastor said – **They go out for Lunch and then have me for Lunch.**

D) God says: That shouldn't be the case.

1) If your Pastor is Faithfully laboring in the Word –

Treat Him with Double Honor .

The Phrase Double Honor speaks of Financial support -

A) Paul lists some Scriptural evidence in support of this.

B) He goes back to the Law, to the book of Deut. and quotes what Moses said: Duet 25:4

"You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain,"

C) That was a requirement in Israel.

1) In those days, when the threshing of grain was done by oxen which walked around on the grain to thresh out the sheaves they were not permitted to be muzzled.

D) The oxen were working, so they deserved to eat.

Paul also touched on this subject of a ministers compensation in 1 Corinthians 9

A) It was there he referred to this same passage in Duet.

1 Corinthians 9:8-11 NIV

8 Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned?

(When Martin Luther quoted this verse, he asked the question, **"Is God's focus the oxen?" "No, of course not," he said, "because oxen can't read."** It was written for us, not for the oxen.)

10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

The principle Paul is getting at is that those who labor in the word deserve their wages.

A) Jesus Himself echoed this same sentiment in Luke 10:7 **"The laborer deserves his wages"**

B) That is interesting. That means that either the Gospel of Luke was already in existence then & Paul was quoting from it.

C) Or it means that this was a word spoken by the Lord which was widely circulated orally at that time.

1) and Paul refers to it as the Lord's own confirmation of this principle.

Here at Calvary our Desire is to take a Church thru the whole counsel of the Word of God.

A) That is why – most of the time we are teaching thru books of the Bible Ch. By Ch. Verse by verse

B) For you as a congregation that is a good thing.

1) Stay here long enough you are going to learn the Word – **Not just principles but the word.**

C) For those of us who are teaching that can at times be challenging – We have to deal w/ **difficult subjects**

1) Subjects that are not readily thought about – last week whole message – Widows [God gave 12 verses to it.]

D) Leadership meeting this week – discussing this

1) There is not a Church in North county that teaches topically – **choose that text – in 10 yrs**

Here is my hope and prayer for you when we come to passages like that. Consider this.

1) **Was it handled correctly?**

2) Was it handled in an in depth manner?

3) **Was it handled insightfully:** Did I learn something?

Most of all I want you to be amazed at the detail of God

A) This is the thing that blows my mind and I appreciate so much about the Lord & his word

B) **He covers everything!** – He is so thorough

1) He is seldom Vague

C) Reminds me that if He cares enough about widows **to give instruction in His inspired word** about how they are to be cared for & handled

D) That means He cares about Me & my need.

1) He is interesting in the Little things in my life

E) There is Really nothing that His word doesn't address !

1) **Be encouraged by that** – When we come to passages like today or last week!

So The elders who are faithfully laboring in the Word are to be counted worthy of double honor

What about the ones who are in Sin? That is what Paul addresses next! Consider 4 things Rd v.19-25

1) Paul gives a word of Instruction. V.19

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses

A) Leaders have a target on their backs:

B) Any one who is in the Public eye is a potential target for a lot of people to Critique/ criticize

1) And Condemn

C) I have had people get so mad at me – verbally attack me because they thought I was singling them out in a Bible study-

You looked right at me when you said

D) One person left over 100 messages – on my phone about how mad they were at me.

Being in the Public eye – Target – for that reason I believe – Paul says – accusation at least 2 witnesses

A) Not just two people who believe the upset person but at least 2 people who were witness to the sin!

B) This follows the criteria of Matthew 18 –

1) You go to them with someone else!

C) SO first a word of Instruction.

2) V.20 Paul gives a word of Sternness!

.20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Now the idea in V.20 is if he persist in his sin AMP and NAS render it correctly.

A) If they repent – it doesn't need to be a public thing – if not if they persist

Rebuke in the presence of all that the rest may fear –

B) The rest being the rest of the elders/ the rest of the pastors:

1) Let it be a lesson for all! **Sin will not be tolerated!**

C) Thankful that we have only had to do this one time in the 9 yrs I have been here.

1) Hard thing to do!

A Word of Instruction / a word of Sternness

3) V.21 Paul gives a word concerning fairness.

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

A) That means even your friends Timothy:

1) **No Partiality** – Friend who is an elder and in sin – don't look the other way- Bring an accusation

B) Instruction / Sternness / Fairness /

4) V.22 Paul gives a Word of Caution.

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

A) Paul cautions don't be hasty: Be patient Don't be too hasty to lay hands on someone to rebuke –

B) Whenever a leader is in sin / He is also being a Hypocrite – **That is aggravating**

1) His sin also has a potential for great fallout in the body of Christ – in the Church as a whole

C) **So there is a temptation to want to deal with matters like this swiftly & Strongly.**

1) Paul cautions – don't be hasty – gather the facts so you are not sharing in another's sin

D) If the accusation was false & ended up having no merit – you act on it / just sharing in another's sin

1) The sin of that false accusation.

E) The worst thing –is when somebody says something against you & someone you trusted believes it

F) When they do that They are actually sharing in that other persons sin by be hasty to believe that accusation.

Now this whole subject of confronting Elders or leaders who are in sin is not easy / never fun.

A) It is probably one of the hardest things to do in ministry.

B) It can cause you to lose sleep at night – it can cause your stomach to hurt

1) It can cause you to feel anxious & overwhelmed

C) It is for that reason I believe that Paul says what he does in this next verse. 1 Tim 5:23

23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

D) Apparently Timothy had a weak stomach and this was only going to make it worse.

1) They didn't have the kind of Meds we have today –so Paul encouraged *take a little wine*

We might say today: Don't forget to Pack some Tums or some Roloids or some alka seltzer.

A) They didn't have those things in those days – so Paul says to Timothy who has a weak stomach

B) Don't forget to take a little wine for you stomach.

Now Paul wraps up this whole discussion by reminding Timothy **RD V.24-25**

24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

With some people – there sins are very much out in the open – Don't repent they will be judged

A) James 3:1 **Stricter Judgment for teachers**

B) Other men it is not evident: You might have suspicions – you might question their motives

1) But understand it is not your call to make – unless there are two or three witnesses – forget it.

C) But know this if your suspicions are valid – it will be revealed later.

Now there is a flip side to that too.

A) The good works of some are clearly evident
Seen by all – they labor in public.

B) But there are those who labor in Private – those who do things no one sees

C) **The Father who sees in Secret will reward you openly**

D) God will not forget your labor of love!

E) Matt 6 -Things done in Secret – God will reward you openly !

Don't let your Motivation for doing what is right or service be the recognition of men.

A) It might not happen – They might not notice

B) They might not acknowledge it – You might not be rewarded here.

C) But rejoice – Be of Good Cheer ! God sees – He notices –

1) He will not forget – But He will Reward you soon enough in Glory – Openly

D) Let that be your motivation – Let that be your hope!

Preaching Point #2

A) You know no one likes to be rebuked – not fun to be corrected – but it can be helpful. Grow from it.

“No one likes to be rebuked; but the wise person uses the rebuke as a valuable means to growth. A sensible friend who will unsparingly criticize you from week to week will be a far greater blessing to you than a thousand indiscriminating admirers if you have sense enough to bear his treatment, and grace enough to be thankful for it.”

(Spurgeon *Lectures to My Students*)

B) No one enjoys it but learn – especially to be gracious

I was considering Peter who was rebuked by Jesus more than once in his 3 yrs following the Lord

A) End of Peter's 2nd epistle – He wrote grow in grace !

B) Peter had experienced a great degree of grace from the Lord – despite his many failures

C) Matt. 17 Mt of Transfiguration

1) Jesus there in an aspect of his glory w/ Moses & Elijah

D) At First Peter almost missed it – because he was asleep

1) Then he wakes up - *Lord it is good Let me build...*

E) Marks Gospel – tells us that Peter said this because he didn't know what to say – but felt like he needed to say something { Been there !

1) While Peter is still talking **God interrupts him- Rebukes Peter !**

F) *This is my Beloved son hear ye Him-* Be quiet Peter !!!!! Other words

There was also the time Peter's great Revelation

You are the Christ.....

A) Followed by His presumptuous correction of Jesus..... cross ...Peter said don't talk like that

B) Jesus Rebuked: Get behind me Satan!

Upper room : All forsake Peter Boasted not me

A) Jesus said – Tonight deny me 3 times ... He did.

B) Over and over in Peter's life there was failure

1) Thru that failure – Peter learned of God's grace and forgiveness – His restoration

C) Peter was used incredibly even after all of his failings not because of his impeccability / his excellence /

1) It wasn't his impeccability but rather it was his teach ability

See in our failures we have a Choice to make – we can stand in our Guilt / We can stand under the Condemnation of the enemy

A) I can retreat from seeking to be an example to my kids / or being involved in Ministry / I can focus on my failures & be disqualified

B) Or I can stand in Grace – Knowing that Jesus Paid the price for my sin / for that specific failure / When I confess it / Repent from it – TURN

C) He forgives / forgets / totally cleansed – restored and blessed

1) This is what Peter came to understand / Standing in the Grace of God is Standing in the Forgiveness & the Restoration that God offers

D) And Standing in the RESOURCES that God supplies

Peter learned He could no longer lean on his flesh – his strength /

A) But on the Spirit of God and the Resources that God offered thru His Grace

B) Peter failed miserably and didn't deserve anything that God gave to him

1) But he accepted it & learned to walk in the Resources God Provided

See it is the grace of God that he doesn't consume us when we fail

A) It is the grace of God that he doesn't write us off – when we mess up / When we misrepresent the Lord

B) You Might get fired for messing up at work – but God doesn't get rid of you when you mess up !

C) It is the Grace of God that He gives us 2nd & 3rd Chances:

1) not 3 strikes and you are OUT – mentality w/ God – Mercies New morning by morning

D) It is the grace of God who takes sinners like us / imperfect People and allows us to be used by a Totally Perfect God – who doesn't need us

1) It is the Grace of God – that when we pick up the Bible – He ministers to our Heart – even at times – Desire isn't there

It is purely in the Grace of God – that He chooses to have anything to do w/ us –

A) When I realize just how Holy / perfect / righteous / wonderful – God is and understand that He wants a relationship w/ me

B) He wants to bless my life / He wants to use my life – I am completely Blown away – Marvel at His Grace / I respond in Worship/ Devotion

C) God loves you -