

Series: Leading Well	Reference: 2 Timothy 1:1-2	Title: Model & Multiply	Date: 07.07.2019
Website Writeup: Our final leadership lesson comes from Paul to Timothy training him to live in grace, modeling & multiplying the life of Christ in others!			

COLOR CHANGES IN TEXT INDICATE SLIDE CHANGES

We're in a now five week series on leadership since I'm adding one next week. We took a break this past Sunday for baptisms!

So far, we've had 3 lessons from unlikely sources in the Scriptural story...

- Jethro taught us in Exodus 18, good leaders delegate to able people.
- Moses taught us in Exodus 31, good leaders identify spiritual gifts in others.
- And The Disciples taught us in Acts 6, good leaders empower servant leaders.

Today's final lesson is from Paul given to Timothy in 2 Tim 1:1-2, which simply says, *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy & peace from God the Father & Christ Jesus our Lord.*

In our first two sermons we tracked the growing complexity & structural development of the nation of Israel. Then in these last two sermons we are looking at the growing complexity of the fledgling church & its structural development.

In Acts 6 we saw *many* people were coming to faith. In that perceived disorder & chaos, the church had to augment its leadership to accommodate growth. We're doing the same here at Six:Eight! We've been growing for 10+ years! That's significant. In the summer people are away on vacation, but we still see God blessing our church with new people, and those being baptized! Amen!

These are transitional times for our church. We had our first VBC just a few weeks ago. We're renovating the bottom floor to accommodate this growing ministry & much needed office space! At the advice of many church development gurus, we've hired Kim 10hrs/wk in the Children's Ministry Director role - for any growing church if you don't put your attention & finances into the children's ministry, you hamstring church development. This coming year we've scheduled more targeted adult classes! We're developing Spiritual Mentors who we'll announce in the fall - people trained in spiritual practices of spiritual formation! And we're augmenting our leadership structure to accommodate all this growth, giving people a much needed break & introducing new voices.

If we'd write a book of the story of Six:Eight as a local church, what would be the chapter titles? The Story of Six:Eight may go something like this...

Chapter 1: A Rooftop Vision in Indonesia

Chapter 2: Development of a Pastor

Chapter 3: God Brings Together a Team

Chapter 4: House Church

Chapter 5: A New Place

Chapter 6: The Next Place

Chapter 7: Not Giving UP & Hard Work!

Chapter 8: An Unexpected Blessing!

Chapter 9: Rounding Out at 10 Years!

Chapter 10: The Continuing Story...

God's blessing us & we need to embrace His leadership as we head into the next chapter of the story of Six:Eight. What's next? That depends on our continued good decisions, commitment to discipleship & courage in taking calculated faith risks!

What we find here in 2 Timothy is, **Modeling & Multiplying Takes Strong Grace.**

Paul's nearing the end of his life & chooses young men such as Timothy to carry on the work of church leadership. His letters to Timothy form a leadership manual for the young pastor & warns him of false teachers. Paul also provides Timothy with personal instructions on how to be a man of God. As he instructs his 'son in the faith' on leadership & discipleship, the exhortation is to be strong in grace. It takes an incredible amount of favor from the Lord to lead & model well, and this grace from Jesus becomes the fuel which drives us to model & multiply disciples.

As we consider being 'strong in grace' to model & multiply, one of the most important ways we can do this is to practice consistent disciplines of grace. Reading the Scriptures, prayer, meditation, silence & solitude, regular worship, all put us in a posture to receive the grace of Jesus, filling our hearts to be able to pour out to others. Ministry towards others begins with our spiritual formation in Jesus. The overflow of which models the Gospel of Grace & multiplies leaders in community. In past weeks we used the illustration of a tire periodically needing to be pumped up to keep its pressure. The same is with us, always going back to the Word, allowing the Spirit of God to fill us once more.

Six:Eight strives to give these tools & disciplines of the faith. We're developing new training initiatives we'll roll out in the fall. 11 people here are wrapping up the spiritual mentor class which trains us in certain useful practices to reinforce our faith, and live out of grace.

Some of the books we've read are...

(1) *Sacred Rhythms*, by Ruth Haley Barton

(2) *An article on Discipleship*, by Dallas Willard

(3) *Invitation to a Journey*, by Robert Mulholland

(4) *Hearing Beyond Words*, by Emma Justes

(5) *Critical Journey, Stages in the Life of Faith*, by Janet Hagberg & Robert Guerlich

(6) *The Kingdom Life*, by Dallas Willard

- (7) *Discernment, God's Will & Living Jesus*, by Larry Warner
(8) *Soul-Keeping*, by John Ortberg
(9) *The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, by Adele Calhoun

And our time was not just spent in reading, but in practice of various spiritual disciplines & tools in order to deepen our own walks & also to impart that to others!

Secondly, we see in this discipleship relationship between Paul & Timothy, **Modeling & Multiplying Happens in Community.**

As we see in verse 2, Paul's instructing Timothy to model what's happened to him. In the early church, as Paul's church-planting teams stretched across the Roman empire to spread the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, he traveled & taught in community. 'In the presence of many witnesses' was how the apostle lived his life & how he taught Timothy. How interesting, he didn't give him a five-point plan for success, he simply told him to repeat with others what had been done with him! To be known, and to know others we like to say at Six:Eight. Ministry happens in the arena of the complexity of human relationships.

One of the greatest barriers of ministry & discipleship is pride. Pride reveals itself in a few ways. Firstly, we naturally think of the narcissist. That person who thinks they're better & needs no direction. Scripture speaks to this person in 1 John 1:8, "*If we say, 'We have no sin,' we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*" Scripture reveals our need for Jesus' grace, not only in the moment of salvation, but every day of our lives. The baptism ceremony we celebrated last week very clearly acknowledges, we're not worthy & in need of Christ's atoning sacrifice & daily grace.

Secondly, pride reveals itself in self-pity, or shame. We often might hang the adjective of humble of the person living in self-pity or shame, but it's not. Humility isn't self-effacing, it's actually a deep mature strong confidence in Christ. These aren't necessarily seen as pride, but at their root the are...pride says to this person, they're beyond help. That they're pain & despair is greater than anyone else, "No one else would never understand me" It's a twisted sense of pride, but pride none-the-less, and one in which hamstrings ministry & stiff arms others well prepared to minister to them. We all need others speaking into our lives, iron sharpens iron. Others to remind us of the Grace of Jesus & His healing power. Shame & self-pity keep us isolated & cut off from the much needed ministry of the Spirit & Word via the Body of Christ.

Leaders need to immerse ourselves in the community we lead, both being known (relying on others) & knowing others (giving the life of Jesus away). Pride kills that process dead & is something the Christian, and especially leaders, fight against. Our leadership training doesn't happen in a vacuum, it comes from modeling the good leadership in front of our people & in the mess of life. Leadership's more caught than taught, and successful leaders model humility & bring others along with them for the journey. Where modeling is practiced, multiplication thrives.

As I've shared before, I've had a number of men in my life who've discipled me in my spiritual walk. Tony Melvin, my roommate when I was first a Christian, took me under his wing & taught me how to have a quiet time, pray & got me into ministry. As he discipled me, he urged me to do the same with others. And that was under the lead of my pastor at the time, Paul Clough, who's spoken here before. He trained me well in the model of Jesus & his discipleship practices with the Apostles, making it a practical lifestyle for me. There've been many others over the years, all of which I am still in contact with & who still speak into my life, which leads us to our last point...

We see, **Modeling & Multiplying Requires Faithful, Multiplying People.**

This is where the rubber meets the road: 'commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also'. We don't know the exact context of Timothy's situation, but we do know, Paul's narrowing his scope of ministry. As a young pastor, with lots of energy & drive, it's probably tempting to take every young man in the church to disciple.

However, even as we look at the life of Jesus, modeling & multiplying takes places within a subset of people who fit a specific criteria. We call them **F.A.T.S.O's**...people who are **Faithful, Available, Teachable, Service & Others** oriented.

Time's crucial for leaders. Who we spend it with & how we model & multiply leaders determines so much about the ministry we lead & how the Gospel's spread. Even Jesus selected His disciples, calling young men who would follow him faithfully, listen to him with openness & availability, and respond with teachability. We need to do the same, finding people who'll be faithful to continue to model & multiply with others. This is how the Gospel spread in the first century, and this is how it spreads today.

If you think through Jesus model of ministry, it was more about multiplication, rather than addition. If you add 1 then another & another, it takes forever to build something. But if you pour yourself into a small number of people urging them to do that as well, you see multiplicative growth happen at a greater level. I pour into three, each of them in turn pours life into three - multiplication instead of addition. From 12 men Jesus changed the world. Out of those, he had 3 closer to him; Peter, James & John; John being the closest still. Jesus reproduced His life in these men. They, in turn, upon receiving the Spirit turned around & reproduced the life of Christ in others.

So, discipleship is that which extends beyond just the leader. *It's what we're all called to do...the Great Commission - Mathew 28:18-20, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Think about your own life. Who's right around you? One, two or three people you could spend time with, pray for, and simply challenge them to live out Christ in deeper ways? Because the secret is that your faith will always seem dry until you begin to give it away.

It's how the life of Christ works in us, we take on His character which becomes concerned about the other souls around us, desiring spiritual health & freedom for them as well. You notice a tremendous change in the disciples. They live life with Jesus for 3 years - their training time. Then Pentecost comes & Jesus hands ministry over to them - and as we saw last week in Acts, ministry explodes, as they do for others what Jesus did for them! They're simply unable to contain the Gospel in them, it overflows from them into others!

You all have a 3X5 card on your chair. Prayerfully take a few moments right now to consider who God has put in your life you can influence to greater faith. Think of two people who are Believers which you can influence to greater spiritual formation. Then think of one who's not a Christian. Begin to pray for these people. Spend time with them. Begin to think of ways you can let them see you live out your faith. Challenge them in theirs. Urge them to have a quiet time. Pray for them openly when they're facing something. Ask them to pray for you. Mourn & laugh with them. Share what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life, and what He's saying to you from your time in the Word. Listen to them, and while you do, listen to what the Spirit is doing between the lines of their lives & identify that for them.

Remember three things, (1) people can't reject your personal story. (2) They also will typically not reject encouragement in word & prayer. (3) Authenticity & integrity go a long way.

You don't need the positional moniker of 'leader' to be doing the ministry we're all called to do - Jesus gave us the model of discipleship, let's Model Him to others & Multiply His life in others.

I want to end this series in making an announcement, like Moses in his day & the Disciples in theirs, growth brings transition & the need to augment leadership. We've been operating with certain people in certain positions for a long time! They've done a stellar job in leading this church, and to continue, we don't want these people to burn out. Also, we want to recognize God's calling of new people to take the weight of leadership. It's healthy to do so.

John Kulp, Mark House & Stef Austinat have served many years on the Pastoral Council. They've led us well. We've been blessed with this team around us. It's come time to give them a break, and transition them to focus on other ministries & their own families.

Stef specifically would like to focus more on the Kingdom Opportunities System, which will benefit us far into the future. John has been overseeing our Finance System well, and will be handing that off to Christine Massey. Mark has 2 kids & another on the way, so you can imagine all that's going on in his life, and he's really finding life-giving ministry on the worship team!

When a church grows, as we've said, we need to put our focus in certain areas to plan for the future. So, we've put some effort towards our Children's Ministry System, but another thing we need to do is augment our leadership structure - adding much needed positions for our future. We saw in Acts 6 two weeks ago how as the church grew, deacons needed to be put into place to carry some of the weight. We are at that same stage & under the guidance of other outside church leaders, we need to transition the Pastoral Council away from some of the Diaconal issues, creating a Deacon Board in addition to our Pastoral Council. And since these three have served well on the Council, they will now transition to the Deacon Board. They'll hold that weight until we can identify people to take their weight - and as I said Christine will be transitioning into that role to give John a break already.

This leaves the question of our Pastoral Council. Donna Christie, Dave Christie, Lindley Thomas & Vinny Nicoletti have said yes to stepping into this much needed role. These two boards will meet through January 1st for a transitional period, then come 2020 they'll meet separately, although still work together along the way. Lindley will also be helping in the role of Community Group Coaching with me as well!

These are natural additional steps in a growing church's life. Once we've solidified this more we will have a time in the service to commission them in this role, and bless them in their future ministry! So be praying for your leadership & these much needed transitions!