

The pursuit of a real and right relationship with God and others happens in the context of LIFE.

As we are pursuing real and right relationship with God and others in life...
...we have **opportunities** to glorify God at different times and places.

Taking the LIFE acronym from where Pastor Chet started...
We are going to expand the idea a little bit more...

Now that we have “Learned the Word”...
... the opportunity is for us to **Lead humbly with love and truth.**

...In life we...

LEAD HUMBLY WITH LOVE AND TRUTH-

We hear a call, see a need, or have an opportunity, and by faith we step up to serve the Lord and bring the love of Christ and the truth of God’s Word in the power of His Spirit.

The key difference between a Christian leader and a leader is motive and mission.

My motivation and mission...

...isn’t just about goals for myself or even good works for others-
...My motivation and mission is the service of God for the glory of God.

**You may or may not see yourself as a leader...
...but from a Biblical perspective, as Christians...
...we are all called to lead.**

You may not be “in leadership”...but you lead others.

1. Being a leader is having influence, and being a Christian leader means bringing the influence of Christ.

Paul would say...

II Cor 2:15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

When you are in the room do you bring a sweet smell of Jesus?

What does Jesus smell like? *I think Jesus smells like spiritual fruit!*

Gal 5:22-23 **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control.

The second point about being a leader is...

2.Christian leaders serve the Lord and help others.

Leaders help God get people where He wants them to go but they could not or would not get their on their own.

Leaders are not leading...

...so they can be in control or be important or make more money...

Leaders go first so God is glorified and others can be helped.

- God may call you.
- God may show you a need.
- God may give you an opportunity.
- And by faith you must choose to step up...
- **...to serve Him and in serving Him you will lead and help others.**

- Noah hears a call and he steps up to serve the Lord and builds a boat to help his family survive.
- Nehemiah sees a need and he steps up to serve the Lord and builds a wall to help the people be safe in their city.
- Paul has an opportunity in a city and he steps up to share the gospel and the Lord builds churches to help people have Real and Right Rel.

The problem is if we get off course on this...

...God is not glorified, people miss out AND...

- we are prone to burn out because the needs never end,
- we are tempted to compromise because we have to fulfill the mission
- We are given to disappointment because it never goes according to plan.

Paul said in Galatians 1:10 For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

The other problem is: Anytime you have influence, you can be tempted to use your influence for yourself and not God's glory.

If you are the older sibling at home.
If you are a babysitter in a family.
If you are the room mom at school.
If you are the teacher in a classroom.
If you are the coach on the court.
If you are the boss on the floor.
If you are the CEO of the company.
If you are the ruler of a nation.
It is easy to begin to use your influence for yourself.

Now let's look at...HOW do we want to lead?
We want to lead with humility.

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you oh man what is good and what the Lord desires of you...to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Is humility weakness? Is it being a pushover? No.

Humility will actually keep us in a position of spiritual power because it keeps us dependent on the Lord.

A great lesson in humility is the life of Moses.

Exodus 2:11

Moses is one of the great leaders in the Biblical account.
He was educated, he had position and he had power...
...but with all that, he still actually wasn't ready.
He failed his first major test...

Moses saw a problem and he tried to solve it in his own power and in his own way, but doing it brought failure and cost him dearly.

Every man and woman must be developed on the inside before they can be used to lead on the outside.

KEY IDEA: Moses had the outward gifts and abilities and even the vision, but he didn't have the inward character to carry it out in a way that would glorify God and really fulfill the greater plan of God.

Exodus 2:11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from [b]the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

18 When they came to Reuel[c] their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?"

19 And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

Isn't it interesting that these girls say he delivered them?

That is who Moses truly was...He was a deliverer.

The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.

But walking in humility means waiting because gifts need to be practiced and a calling needs character for us to bring Him glory.

The way he stepped in, wasn't a step up.

Moses did it his way...

...Which does not bring the fragrance of Christ, but the smell of the flesh.

Moses was a deliverer, but first he had to learn to be dependent.

And this is a lesson that often takes time...

God creates us with purpose and gifts, and we need to learn to wait on Him and practice our gifts so we can use them in a way that gives Him glory.

For Moses, he was created to deliver people.

But, he needed to wait...

Preparation time cannot be compromised without compromising the strength of the foundation.

God may give a vision, but in humility we need to wait on Him.

(There are times where the need is urgent and the opportunity is obvious. Meeting urgent needs is a biblical idea.)

But a bigger need or a divine vision or a life sized purpose takes waiting, and waiting takes humility.

We don't rush in with our solution our way, we wait on the Lord's direction, preparation, and timing.

Maybe you are not ready or maybe they are not ready...

But you can trust that when they are or you are...

...God will make it clear because it is His mission, not yours!

Fools rush in is true.

Christian leaders go, but they go with the humility that waits for God's power and God's timing in God's way.

Moses tried to deliver a Hebrew slave, but it didn't go well.

Later he found another group of people in need of deliverance.

This time, he stepped in to help and took a step up to fulfill his calling.

He couldn't deliver the nation yet, but he could deliver a few women at a well...the rest would come in time.

Don't despise the day of small things.

- Some people won't step in unless it is big or impressive...
- They think small things are beneath them.

Don't despise the days of small things that you think are below you, because it is the small things that are below you today that when done faithfully will build the foundation for the big things that He wants you to do later.

Start small, and practice your gifts, depend on the Lord,
Learn to make the choices that lead to successful outcomes,
Develop your character, and give God glory.

So after 40 years of tending sheep, God finally appears to Moses and called him not to just deliver one person but a whole nation.

AND...

This time Moses no longer had brash confidence and aggressive authority. He wasn't going to react emotionally and take things into his own hands.

He knew his human frailty.

He knew his weakness.

AND he knew he needed help!

**Humility is not that I don't think of myself at all,
Humility is a clear understanding of myself, my gifts and abilities and knowing I still need help from God and others.**

I may be able to solve problems, but if I am doing it in my strength, my way it is very unlikely God will be glorified.

Man's way, two men are fighting-solution: kill one of them.

Man's way, people need food- solution? send them home to buy food themselves

Man's way, people reject Jesus- solution? call fire down and consume them.

Man's way, the disciples need an apostle- solution? Make a list, choose a few qualified guys and then pick sticks.

All of these are solutions, but none of them glorify God.

What glorifies God is what rightly reflects His character.

Peaceful, Merciful, generous, kind, provider, passionate, inner focused.

It is also worth noting...

A God-sized vision is usually bigger than we can accomplish on our own.

Any leader called by God, or who has seen a need or has an opportunity must understand...they can't do it on their own...

***We need the love of God,
often the people of God,
and definitely the power of God.***

So far we have seen...

**Christian leaders bring the influence of Christ
Christian leaders serve the Lord and help others.
Christian leaders lead with humility...**

And lastly Christians lead with love and truth...

...and for this let's look at...

One of the greatest acts of leadership in Jesus' life... John 13:13

Jesus is the son of God and the disciples had dirty feet.

John 13:

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And [a]supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, **4** rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. **5** After that, He poured water

into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

SKIP DOWN...

12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you [b]know what I have done to you? **13** You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. **16** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

This is one of the most important leadership Scriptures in the Bible.

Christ Himself is leading and telling us He is giving us an example.

- Notice, He knew the timing, He knew who He was, He knew where he was going...He had been waiting His entire life for this night.
- He did lead with humility!
- And He rose to serve...**it is never a step down to serve others and it is always a step up to glorify God.**

He served them all because He loved them all, betrayer and believer.

- they all had a need and He cared for each one.
- He put the emphasis on the doing not just the knowing...love is an action and leadership isn't about knowing all the answers, It is about doing the right things.

He shared the truth simply and honestly

- In false humility, we may be tempted to be anonymous or mysterious, but a lesson often needs an explanation.
- We can share God's truth. It is the truth that will set us free.

CLOSING...

Mission and Vision--

There is a mission and a vision we have as Christians.

It is important to do the mission well...

...so that the vision can be accomplished.

The mission is the what and the vision is the why.

The mission accomplishes the work, and the vision fulfills the plan.

**The dirty feet were clean, the mission was accomplished,
...AND the lesson was learned, so the vision was fulfilled.**

Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all for the glory of God.

...It is not *worldly* to do things well.

...It was said of Jesus, He did all things well.

The glory of God is revealed in skillful playing, beautiful designing, and quality work.

Mission...Clean their feet.

Vision...show them how to love and serve.

- The mission: Get out of Egypt. The Vision: Live in the Promised land
- The mission: plant coffee trees. The vision: empower a community.
- Mission: serve in the parking lot ministry. vision: make every person feel welcome and safe.
- Mission: help out at camp at coast. Vision: help kids know Jesus.
- Mission: give out donuts and coffee. Vision: bless our community in Christ's name and share God's love.

Our Mission:

Pursue real and right relationships with God and others in life.

Our Vision: Glorify God together.

God is glorified as the lost are found, believers are growing and serving, and bearing fruit, enduring trials and looking for the opportunities they have in their LIFE to glorify God.