

Essentials to Leadership: Passion and Perseverance

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Passion and Perseverance – part 4

This course continues the discussion of passion and perseverance. The ideas from this lesson, and future lessons, assist students to learn about what passion means, how passion factors into our daily lives, and why it is needed in the church.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Considered five thoughts about what leaders need to know regarding sacrifice.
- B. Listed a minimum of ten ways leaders must sacrifice in order to lead.
- C. Discussed four areas relating to how we develop the mind of sacrifice today.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of four and ask each group to take 5 minutes and write down a description of their response to the following statement by Martin Luther King, Jr. “If a man has not discovered something he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.”
 - 1. How does this relate to our discussion of passion? Passion is a word that comes to us from a Latin word meaning “to suffer.”
 - 2. What connection do we find between this statement and our faith?
- B. Consider the following thoughts about what leaders need to know about sacrifice. These are based on the John Maxwell’s “The Law of Sacrifice.”
 - 1. There is no success without sacrifice.
 - 2. To lead means to sacrifice.
 - 3. Leaders are often asked to give up more than others. Leaders give up the right to think about themselves.
 - 4. You must keep giving up to stay up.
 - 5. The higher the level of leadership, the greater the sacrifice.
- C. Discuss the following passages with the class, as they relate to the biblical context of sacrifice.
 - 1. Luke 9:23 (also Lk. 9:57-62)
 - 2. Philippians 2:2-9
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 9:15-23

D. Ask each group to take the next 10 minutes and make a list of ways leaders must sacrifice in order to lead. Here are a few suggestions to add, if they are not mentioned by the groups.

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| 1. Time | 6. Personal needs |
| 2. Family | 7. Power / authority |
| 3. Influence / popularity | 8. Relationships |
| 4. Money | 9. Ambition |
| 5. Privacy | 10. Benefits |

E. For class discussion: How can we develop the mind of sacrifice today?

1. See the *need*
 - a. Biblically, Jesus identified the need in Matthew 9:36-38, the people were like sheep without a shepherd.
 - b. The same thought is expressed in John 4:35. We need to lift up our eyes and look.
 - c. What needs are we talking about? Physical, emotional, and spiritual, etc.
2. Know the *value* of the gift
 - a. Do we understand the value of what we offer to others? Until we understand the value of the gift we have to give, we will never see the need to offer it.
 - b. Think about what Jesus offered people. He did not give them clothes, vehicles, money, houses to live in, etc. What Jesus gave people was of such a nature that the recipient could not exchange or return the value: freedom, forgiveness, opportunity, compassion, love, HOPE! Jesus gave people hope. We should do the same.
3. Consider the *greater* good
 - a. The greater good involves our consideration of what is best for the good of the many, not the one or few, or ourselves.
 - b. Generally, the thought involves the whole of humanity, which should be considered here. However, we need to begin with thinking about the greater good of the kingdom, God's people.
4. Ask the *question*: Will we make the sacrifice?

Conclusion:

- A. Passion and sacrifice are terms that naturally go together. Leaders who are passionate will make whatever sacrifice is necessary to achieve the vision before them. When we think about passion and sacrifice, we need to write down and remember the phrase: Whatever It Takes!
- B. If we will remember the few steps to developing the mind of sacrifice, we are well on our way to becoming the leader God wants us to be for His people. Sacrifice is what it takes. Will we make it?
- C. Next week, we will take another step in the area of passion by considering the next component found in the true nature of passion.

Recommended Reading:

Duckworth, Angela. *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*

Moore, Steve. *Who is my Neighbor? Being a Good Samaritan in a Connected World*

Maxwell, John. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*