

Weakness: Defining Leadership

Acts 18:1-3; 24-28

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I. We declare our dependence when we acknowledge our weakness. (Psalm 40)

*I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
2He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.*

—Psalm 40:1

*For evils have encompassed me
beyond number;
my iniquities have overtaken me,
and I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head;
my heart fails me.*

—Psalm 40:12

*Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me!
O Lord, make haste to help me!*

—Psalm 40:13

a. We all are in need of God's help. (40:13)

*As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God!*

—Psalm 40:17

b. None of us have it all together. (40:17)

II. A leader is anyone who influences another person toward a specific goal. (Acts 18:1-3; 24-28)

1After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

—Acts 18:1-3

a. You don't need to be well known to be a person of influence. (18:1-2)

1After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

—Acts 18:1-3

b. You don't need a specific title to be a leader. (18:1-4)

Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. 25He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John

—Acts 18:24-25

He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

—Acts 18:26

And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers

encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, 28for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

—Acts 18:27-28

c. Every leader needs to be led. (18:24-28)

for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

—Acts 18:28

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

—1 Timothy 4:12

III. Spiritual Leadership is influence.

Study Questions

1. Leadership is a word that is frequently tossed around in many different circles. In your own words, how would you define leadership. Give some examples. Spend some time talking about Spiritual Leadership. How might your definition of spiritual leadership differ from your above definition? If it does differ, elaborate on the difference.
2. Read Psalm 40. Take some time to observe David's heart and emotion throughout this psalm. Is there anything that surprises you about David's words? If so, explain. We don't typically think of weakness as a strength; however, throughout Scripture this is a truth we can't avoid. As you consider this psalm, identify the statements where David acknowledges his weakness. What does this tell you about David's leadership? Explain.
3. If leadership is truly influence, then we're all leaders. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Give some examples of people you've known who have had an influence on you. Think of those who influenced you not because of their position, but rather because of their character. Would you have previously thought of them as a

leader? Explain.

Finally, think about someone you see regularly. Think about ways God might want to use you to lead (i.e. influence) them spiritually this week. Be practical. Share this with your group. Close out your time praying for one another and committing to encourage one another to allow God to use you this week.