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LEADERSHIP 101 – Part 1

By Mark Gorman

I Chronicles 12:23 And these [are] the numbers of the bands [that were] ready armed to the war, [and] came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

38 All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel [were] of one heart to make David king.

What defines you as a leader is NOT your self-image. That is your own opinion of yourself.

What defines you as a leader is simply FOLLOWERS.

(David didn't "candidate" for the position of king. Rather, these warriors recognized within him, the heart of a king, and they wanted to make him king. Isn't that a lot better than what we usually see, with people who push and push to get "elected" as king, only to learn later that they aren't "up to" the job?)

Regardless of how great your character, your intelligence, your abilities, your strengths, your discipline, your wisdom, your anointing or your walk with God, if no one is following you, you are NOT a leader.

By definition, a leader leads. And if no one follows, then you are not leading!

This may seem overly simplistic, but without the understanding of this one, simple definition, many people fancy themselves as a leader, when they are no more than a "loner" whose life affects others very little, if any.

The purpose of leading is to inspire others to achieve what they would not have done if left to themselves.

A leader stretches people beyond their comfort zone, to help them see what they are truly capable of accomplishing, which is often much more than they ever thought they could have done. This measurable difference between what people would have done on their own, and what they achieve as a result of being challenged by a leader, is the definitive gauge of a leader's effectiveness, and their worth as a leader.

To be accurate in defining leadership, we must separate a leader's influence from their achievements, in order to determine, not only their ability to inspire others to follow, but also, to determine how nobly or selfishly they have utilized their influence with those who have followed their lead.

Some who aspire to lead, focus only on the character and self-discipline needed to be a truly great leader. As we look to great leaders of history, we note that they are admired, not only for their influence, but possibly even more for the humility and grace with which they led, and the self-discipline which defined their leadership.

But if we only aspire to be people of great character and discipline, we lose sight of the fact that without influence, we may live out our lives, having only impacted our own life, and no one else.

So, if we are to lead, we must not only have the character of a leader. But we must also live a life which causes others to want to follow our lead.

Ask yourself this question: Is anyone following me?

Because if you turn around and see that no one is following you, then you are not leading, you're just taking a walk – a stroll.

So, what defines a leader? These two necessary ingredients:

1. Influence
2. Character

Those who have influence without character are manipulators.

Those who have character without influence are good, admirable people, but their life does not challenge others to emulate them, so therefore, their character dies with them.

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(I'll be sending you another e-mail soon, with more of my notes on "Leadership 101".)

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