

DAY 8

Leadership Is Influence ... Period!

After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them ... The whole assembly became silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul ... After they stopped speaking, James responded ... Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, decided ... For it was the Holy Spirit's decision — and ours ...

Acts 15:7–28

Leadership Affirmation

I willingly subject my opinion to wise counsel from fellow believers in Christ, not seeking to promote my agenda, but to influence others with the wisdom of the Spirit.

The scattered church came together in Jerusalem to consider the urgent question of what the Lord requires for people to be saved from their sins (Acts 15). After “much debate” at the Jerusalem Conference, four leaders rose to *speak*, the whole church *decided*, and the history of the world was *changed*! What happened in those few hours of time? A confluence of influence!

The simplest and most concise definition of leadership that I’ve found comes from John Maxwell: *Leadership is influence.*^{iv} Your capacity to influence the decisions and actions of others is the measure of your capacity to lead. Leadership asks the question, “How can I influence the people around me?” For believers, it is more specific: “How can I influence the people around me for the glory of God and their own good?”^v

God created men and women to make His glory known. In making His glory known, the human soul can be satisfied. So, what we really need to discover is how we can influence others so they can see the glory of God in us, in themselves, in what we engage in collectively and individually.

God’s leadership flows from His essence. Our leadership, likewise, flows from within, from our character. It is not what we *do*. It is who we *are*. If we want to be effective leaders in our homes, churches, and communities, we must have the *character* to lead. Your *character* shapes your *attitudes*, how you *perceive* the people, situations, and ideas around you. And your *attitudes* drive your *actions*. You teach what you know, but you reproduce who you are.^{vi}

Prayer for Protection

Dear Lord, please protect me from the notion that my ideas are the best and from trying to carry them forward untested by the wise counsel of leaders who do not simply tell me what I want to hear.