

Leading With No Regrets

Lesson 04 of the series, "No Regrets"

A. God wants us to lead this year.

Leadership = influence

1. Leaders see what needs to be done.

"Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven." Nehemiah 1:2-4 (NLT)

2. Leaders do what needs to be done.

Early the following spring... I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried." The king... asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request. I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah... And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me." Nehemiah 2:1-8 (NLT)

Note: Nothing happens without leadership.

3. God has gifted some of us with leadership ability but all of us can lead at some level.

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously."

Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church." Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12 (NLT)

B. Seven resolutions that will help us lead well and keep us from regret.

1. Resolved: This year I will invest in someone else.

"Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others." 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT)

"...teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands." Titus 2:3-5 (NLT)

2. Resolved: This year I will look and listen for opportunities to serve others.

"You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)

3. Resolved: This year I will go first.

“Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.”
Philippians 3:17 (NLT)

“Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)

4. Resolved: This year I will deal with problems promptly and confidently.

“And ‘don’t sin by letting anger control you.’ Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT)

“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality... Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:13-15 (NLT)

5. Resolved: This year I will pray for others in leadership positions.

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NLT)

6. Resolved: This year I will work smarter not harder.

“Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That’s the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.” Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NLT)

“This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself... select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten. They should always be available to solve the people’s common disputes, but have them bring the major cases to you. Let the leaders decide the smaller matters themselves. They will help you carry the load, making the task easier for you. Exodus 18:18-22 (NLT)

7. Resolved: This year I will follow through.

“When you make a promise to God, don’t delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him.” Ecclesiastes 5:4 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

1. Describe one person who has invested in you. What did they do to help you mature?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 11:1. Do you see yourself as a leader? Why/why not? Where do you have the most influence? What can you do to increase your influence?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 5:4. Describe one problem you started to tackle last year but never finished. Spend some time praying for each other asking God for wisdom, boldness, sensitivity, preparation, etc. in order to get the job done.
4. Read Ecclesiastes 10:10 & Exodus 18:18-22. Share one area in your life where you need to change the way you are tackling a problem.
5. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. How can we pray for our new president? ...our pastor? ...connect group leader? ...each other?

6. Discuss the following statements:

"A leader sees what needs to be done." "A leader does what needs to be done."

What needs has God shown you? What are you doing to meet these needs so you won't experience regret at the end of the year? What roadblocks might keep you from leading as you should?

7. Discuss the following quotations:

"He who thinketh he leadeth and hath no one following him is only taking a walk." John Maxwell

"Fatigue makes cowards of us all." Vince Lombardi / George S. Patton

"It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strive valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again... Who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring and greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." Teddy Roosevelt