Series: Influence

November 18, 2018

Message 8:

**Next Level Influence**

2nd Timothy 2:2

*Guests - Handout designed with you in mind - Info and notes especially for you - won’t call or visit -*

*Next Steps*

*Generosity*

*Notes on Handout and in YouVersion App*

**Intro:** We have discussed a number of principles to help you have greater influence in this series. God has called each of us and He gives each of us opportunities to influence others for Him.

* We have talked about the greatest example of influence in Jesus.
* A Control Issue
* When Crisis Hits
* A Matter of the Heart
* Attitude
* Passing Tests
* Get Real -

Some key principles came up time and time again. I want to conclude this series by talking about how we can take our influence to the next level -

***Bring in children - Ask a bunch of them - “What do you want to be when you grow up?” - Can we do a video of this?***

About the time I was in Betty Garner’s Sunday school class, I want to be a shoe salesman …

Fireman … Marathon runner … Dentist …

My ministry is not greater than yours. My calling and my gifting is not more important than anyone here -

We are all gifted - we all have been given gifts - For all of us - who will exercise these gifts when we are gone? When we are no longer able to do so?

Should we just expect God will call and gift and equip someone else without our having anything to do with it? Or, does God expect some level of our participation in identifying others who have our same gifts, and helping them to develop that gift, and pass it on so that the gift will go on in an even greater degree than our influence is currently?

My prayer is that whenever I’m done leading this church it will take off and do greater than it has ever done before! That will be the greatest sign of my success.

As a great relay race team requires a smooth handoff of the baton in order to win the race, it is important to hand the baton of ministry off when it is time.

You are an influencer. You have people in your life that you are influencing. You are influencing them with your passion and your gifts.

**Big Idea: Who will carry on your influence after you?**

**T.S.:** There are three objectives to keep in mind as you work to make sure that your ministry doesn’t stop with you, but is passed on to others.

**> Reproduce**

2nd Timothy 2:2 - 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.

This is not just for those in positions of “professional ministry!” We are not professionals - we are all gifted - we all have opportunities of influence - and we are all to identify our gifts - use our gifts - and equip and train others in those gifts so that they can continue beyond us!

Don’t wait until you’re done!

Nathan Peternel -

Adam Hafenbridle -

Mike Maleto

Staci Inskeep

Chris Atwood

Nathanael Sommers

Justin Evans

By the grace of God, I have already reproduced myself in many places! Those they influence will be influenced by my influence!

**^ *Giving freely reproduces influence***

Matthew 10:8 - …Give as freely as you have received!

Give as freely as you have received!

Matthew 10:8 The Message - …You have been treated generously, so live generously.

It is vitally important that you draw upon the influence you have received and pass it on freely to others. Great influencers are not insecure about letting others take the lead. When you do, your ministry expands and becomes more effective.

“It takes a leader to reproduce a leader.”

We could easily change that to - “It takes an influencer to reproduce an influencer.” And since all of us have influence, we can all reproduce our influence in others.

One of the reasons this series is so important and why it is important for us to develop our influence is because you can only give away what you have. As you influence more beyond you, your influence in one life is multiplied in many lives!

***^ Trusting people reproduces influence***

Trust can be hard - in parenting, Doc Dobbins - trust your children unless they give you a reason not to trust them. Often we don’t trust our kids in certain areas, even when they’ve done nothing wrong in those areas - They will often live up to the level of your trust - or down …

When you are influencing people - and you want to see them influence others beyond you - reinforce in them your trust. Take everything we’ve shared with you in this series, and share it with someone else.

My goal has been to let everyone know, you don’t have to be a “leader” to have a powerful influence in other people’s lives! God has called us all to influence - He has given us all gifts for influence - He has put people in our lives that we can influence - Now you share that with others! Help others to have influence and trust them - Help them get training - train them yourself in your areas of gifting.

When Jesus told His followers to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, He also gave them supernatural power and authority. Giving them authority - trusting them - letting them go - was an absolute necessity or else they would not have not been able to complete the task He gave them, nor would they have developed into effective leaders. The same is true for us.

**> Multiply**

Mark 4:1-8 - Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

Jesus’ parable illustrates the growth that comes to the Kingdom of God through multiplication. When the Word of God is received in a heart that has been prepared by prayer and the Holy Spirit, there will be a multiplication of people who enter the Kingdom of God.

Mark 4:14-20 - The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others. The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

This principle of multiplication applies to every aspect of our influence and ministry. When the Word of God is the source and supply of our ministry and influence, then growth will come! Growth will come to your opportunities, to your small group and to the church as we multiply influence!

If all we do is create loyalty among followers, then we can only grow one person at a time. When we develop those followers into influencers as well, then our growth multiplies! It is the difference between addition and multiplication!

**10 + 10 + 10 = 30**

**10 x 10 x 10 = 1000**

Acts 2:41 - Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Acts 2:47 - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 6:7 - So God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

Other translations - “increased rapidly” - “multiplied”

Acts 9:31 - The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.

Acts 12:24 - Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread, and there were many new believers.

***^ The “All By Itself” Principle***

This is one of the most powerful truths we can get ahold of and as we do it will increase our faith as we move forward in influence!

How does the seed that Jesus talked about in Mark 4 develop into a fruit-bearing plant?

Mark 4:28 NIV - ***All by itself*** the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

In 1st Corinthians 9:6 Paul says that God is the One who makes things grow. As we faithfully do what we are called to do, and as we develop and consider ourselves responsible to apply what we have learned (planting & watering) then God takes over and causes the growth … by multiplication!

Focus on being spiritually HEALTHY - the rest becomes natural!

Find people to influence - find people to invest your faith in - pass your faith along - make sure some are in the next generation - this multiplication WILL take place!

Seeing your influence multiplied and seeing more results than you could have imagined keeps you from becoming “weary in well doing” and become discouraged thinking all that you are doing is in vain!

You might still be thinking, “What is the difference between reproduction and multiplication?”

**Picture of Mom and Me …**

**Picture of Sharon and Triplets …**

We want to reproduce our influence - but we also want to multiply our influence!

**> Leave a Legacy**

Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

At some time or another, for one reason or another, sooner or later, you will no longer be doing what you are doing! You won’t have the same opportunities - you won’t have as much influence - as many people to influence -

Who will continue what you are doing? Who will pick up your opportunities? Who will you pass them on to?

When Jesus left, He left successors. He is our example! He had spent time with them, mentored them, trained them and given them authority. He influenced them so that His influence would continue - that’s why we are here today! Are we going to be a link in the continuing chain, or will part of the chain break with us?

Jesus’ followers only needed one more thing to be ready to go. Jesus would provide that also!

Luke 24:49 - “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

That’s influence! Far and wide! That’s what the power of God in us can do!

Are you influencing people with this power? This power increases your influence!

**Concl:**

Are you looking to influence people with the goal that they will influence others beyond you? Remember—success without successors is failure.

Are you empowering others in your ministry? Don’t do it all yourself!

Ephesians 4:11-13 - Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

This is leaving a legacy - this is Next Level Influence. This is what YOU are called to! This is why Jesus is in you!

What will happen when we’ve reached a point where we as individuals no longer have the influence we have now? Will it survive? Will it thrive? Take your influence to the next level! LEAVE A LEGACY!