

6- Road Skills – Relating Down

07/4/2010 - Jim Johnson

All of us have experienced bear-like bosses, overbearing parents, an impolite policeman. Proverbs tells us that this is not the way God intended authority to be exercised? Maybe more disturbing is to know that we may be that kind of authority. How do we know?



1. If people tend to _____ when you show up, you may be bad boss. (28:28)

Solomon tells us that when the wicked come into power, people tend to withdraw and hide. When they leave, people come out of hiding. Do the people who follow you seek you out, or hide from you?

2. If people _____ when you show up, then you may be a bad boss. (29:2)

When a righteous person is elevated and put into power – the people are happy. When a wicked person rules they complain & whisper for they know that they will ultimately pay the price for lack of good leadership.

A. How should we think about those we lead?

1. Our people are _____ (14:4)

Oxen are messy but without them the fields would never be tilled, and the farmer would starve. In the same way – people can be messy – but they are necessary. We have a job to do and must have help to do it. Sometimes it takes a lot to care for people and yet without them, there is no increase.

2. Our people are equal to us in _____ (22:2)

Solomon points out that there are common bonds between people - the Lord is the maker of us all. The leader, therefore is not any better or more important than those he leads. There may differences in responsibility, but not in personal value

3. Our people find the _____ of God in our decisions (16:10)

We who lead others – represent the will of God to them. This is why Solomon tells the King that his mouth should not err in judgment. In other words, make sure that your decision is good, right and true because you are reflecting the will of God to those you lead.

4. Our people are greatly _____ by us. (16:15)

A king has so much daily impact in the lives of his people that a good King is like life itself. Authority is like that. We may think it ends when the whistle blows but it doesn't. We invasively affect the lives of those who work for us.

B. How do we _____ to those we lead?

1. _____ hurts them. (17:7)

Dishonesty is intolerable in a person of authority. This means that we don't make promises that we don't keep. We also need to give an honest answer when asked a question

2. _____ hurts them. (28:15-16)

To oppress someone means that we misuse the power of our authority to make miserable the lives of those we lead. An oppressive person mistakenly believes that the best way to motivate a worker is to shout louder, or threaten more severely. Not so according to Solomon.

3. _____ **encourages them (23:10)**

The author reminds us to respect the rules, the ancient boundaries that distinguish one property from another. Those we lead, must know that we will be playing by the rules, not our rules, but the rules by which everyone subscribes. Justice means that we must be impartial in the way we do business. (18:18)

4. _____ **encourages them (11:17)**

Justice makes sure that the rules are kept. Mercy extends forgiveness to those who has broken them. Mercy is overlooking a first offense. It gives attention more to the person than the job. Mercy recognizes that we all have our off days. It recognizes that we are human and fallible and can't always be on top of our game.

5. _____ **encourages them (18:13)**

A wise leader will listen to those he leads. He will not give an answer before he hears the question. She will not presume that she knows all there is to know. To do otherwise is to create conflict. (13:10)

6. _____ **encourages them (20:28)**

Solomon tells us that subjects need their king to be loyal to them. They need a leader who will keep his promises to them, and look out for their best interest, and make sure that they are protected from the dangers that even they do not understand.

7. _____ **encourages them (16:26)**

People work for the reward that it brings – food and other fine stuff. We need to make sure that the people who work for us are reasonably rewarded for their work

8. _____ **encourages them (13:12)**

Those who work under us need hope. They need to know that they can earn more by working more, and that their efforts will be recognized or that they might be promoted when they complete their degree.

C. What _____ will it make?

1. **Those you lead will _____ you for it. (29:21)**

Solomon recognizes that the man who treats his slave with dignity and kindness transforms that slave into a son. This means that the motivation of the slave changes over time. He doesn't do the job now because he is obligated as a slave. He does the work because he wants to. He is grateful for his kind master. He loves him and is loyal to him

2. **Those you lead will cause you to _____ (11:25)**

To be kind and good to those who work under you is to be gracious – like watering a thirsty garden plant. Solomon tells us that the person who waters will be watered. Be kind and gracious and good to those who work under you, and they will give to you, they will be more loyal to you than you can ever imagine.

When I treat those under my authority with _____ and kindness they cooperate and I succeed.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Who is under your authority at the moment? Do you dare ask them if they are happy with your leadership or not?
2. What can you specifically apply from this lesson that would help you be a better leader?