

## LEADING LIKE JESUS 9

### EQUIPPED AND ANOINTED FOR LEADERSHIP

#### EXERCISE

In groups of three or four share simply the one or two most important things you feel you have learned through this Leadership Course. Are there particular steps you feel that God wants you to take as a result of this?

#### The Importance of Anointing

The first act of Jesus ministry recorded by Mark shows him identifying with the people. The second shows him receiving an anointing by the Spirit for his work. Incarnation and anointing are both vital aspects of Christian service. One shows how we must be committed to people whilst the other shows how we must derive our strength from God. Sometimes people recognised as 'Spirit-filled' are insensitive to culture and to human need and their ministries suffer as a result. But a more serious problem is when people who wisely identify with people and adopt the right methods are nevertheless not spiritually powerful because they rely more on their methods than on the Spirit's power.' ' (Ajith Fernando - 'Jesus Driven ministry')

As the prototype spirit-filled human being, Jesus models to us the true dynamics of effective ministry. He empties himself, refuses to rely on his own natural abilities and does not embark upon his ministry until after receiving the equipping of the Holy Spirit from the Father.

(**Luke 3:21-2**)

*By **anointing** we mean God's deliberate setting apart of a person for ministry with an accompanying equipping by him.*

Jesus always ministers out of the anointing of God.

**Luke 4:14,18ff**

**John 5:19**

**Matthew 12:28**

In commissioning other leaders, Jesus stresses the vital importance of God's anointing as the prerequisite for effective ministry. This emphasis is continued in the life of the early church and in the raising up and releasing of other leaders.

**Luke 9:1-2**

**Luke 24:49**

**John 20:22**

**Acts 1:8**

**Acts 2:1-4**

**Acts 6:1-7**

**Acts 9:17**

**1 Tim 4:14**

**2 Tim 1:6-7**

Not only is it true that we can only effectively do the work of God in the power which he supplies, but to try to do otherwise is fruitless, exhausting and demoralising.

***'Burnout takes place when the wick and not the oil is burning!'***

## **The Fruit of Anointing** (The example of David)

- Anointing brings a sense of divine presence and character and authority upon the one anointed.
- Anointing brings with it an intense experience of the love and reality of God
- Anointing enables us to persevere even in the hardest of circumstances

## **Keys to experiencing Anointing**

1. **Anointing comes out of our times spent with God** (cf. Moses, Jacob -Gen32, Jesus). Cf Jesus instructions to disciples re prayer and fasting; immediately prior to this incident Jesus had been with the father on the mount of Transfiguration.

### **2. Prayer and the laying on of hands.**

The Apostle Paul asks others to pray for him; anointing is released through the prayers of others (Eph 6:19ff).

The receiving of God's anointing in Scripture is frequently linked with the laying on of hands by others e.g. Paul in Acts 13:1-3, the Jerusalem Deacons in Acts 6, Timothy (2 Tim 1:6).

### **3. Cultivating the gift God has given us**

Paul reminds Timothy not to neglect his gift but to stir it up afresh.

### **4. Obedience to God's will**

In John 14, Jesus links the receiving of the Spirit with obedience to the Father's will.

In Acts 4:23ff the disciples, in the face of opposition pray for boldness to fulfil the calling which God has upon them, a prayer which is answered by a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Our lack of equipping may well be a result of our lack of determination to press on with God despite all odds and our lack of desperation!

### **5. The refining work of God in our lives**

**Luke 4:1-14.** Jesus' experience in the wilderness served to refine him and to heighten his dependence upon the Father. Often it is experiences of testing and difficulty which most serve to deepen our own experience of the empowering work of God as our longing for him to work is increased in us.

### **6. Acknowledgment of our own human weakness**

The Apostle Paul's struggle in **2 Cor 12** leads to a revelation that human weakness is actually God's opportunity.

### **7. Faithfulness**

We are called to be faithful stewards of that which has been entrusted to us by God. The more we demonstrate faithfulness, the more we will be entrusted with greater responsibility in the Kingdom.

Anointing is not once for all event but rather a lifestyle and a process; we need to go on seeking further anointings from God and a progressive infilling with his Holy Spirit (**Eph 5:18**) for we are, in the words of D L Moody, 'leaky vessels'.

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