

Definition of a Leader

Tone Setters and Depth Makers

Objective for the Meeting: To continue the discussion of what makes a leader and to teach the Servant Leaders that they are tone setters and depth makers.

A Leader Defined- A leader is someone who sets noble objectives and pursues those objectives with such intensity that they take others with them.

Now that we've made it through a bit of the Fall Blitz season what is the key to being a healthy leader?

Leaders are Depth Makers

It is the fact that leader's are depth makers. Let me say that many of the pictures I am going to use, I first saw from Tim Elmore's book *Habitudes*. (The five things are not from Tim Elmore persay, but I am using his pictures and some of his stories to illustrate them.) I have three pictures for depth makers—Ice berg, a sailboat, and a baker it is that important!

When I say leaders are depth makers what I am saying is that a leader will lead in the depth of that group. If the group is going to have depth, they are going to have a leader that has depth.

Iceberg: As Tim Elmore says, leadership is like an iceberg. The 10% above the water is your skill. The 90% below the water is your character. The key to being an effective leader is what no one else sees. It is what is below the water level. That is the secret of the iceberg, it is the secret of a boat, it is the secret of a leader! We tend to be more concerned about our height, but this tells us we need to be concerned with our depth.

Sailboat: In 1992 Michael Plant—American Yachtsman commenced to sail from the United States to France. He had a state of the art ship called the Coyote. He was extremely experienced and no one really worried about him. Until about 2 weeks into the voyage he could not be found by radar or search and rescue. His boat was found upside down in the ocean. The interesting thing is that Sailboats virtually never go upside down. And if they do they don't stay that way. See the secret to a sailboat is what is beneath the waterline. When Plant's boat was built an 8,000 pound weight was fixed to the keel to keep it steady should stormy waters come. However when the boat was found, they discovered that somehow the 8,000 pound weight had broken away from the keel, leaving Michael Plant, helpless and hopeless and it ended up killing him.

It is what is below the water that provides stability. How true it is: A person can have incredible gifts or skills, but the fact is, without character below there will be no stability.

I have heard it said that God will put you in a position, but it is your character that will keep you there.

(As the motto goes "The quality goes in before the name goes on." The character must come first before the name goes on.)

Starving Baker (Tim Elmore)

Imagine, if you will, you visit a new bagel shop not far from your campus. You love going there because their chief baker has created a new recipe for pastries and cinnamon rolls that are better than any you've ever had in your life.

The baker doesn't have much help, he is scurrying back and forth busy with all the people's requests.—but oblivious to what is happening to him. His exhaustion is quickly becoming

burnout. Over the next couple of weeks, you notice that he is looking a little sickly, he is losing weight, way too fast. He doesn't seem to be jovial like he used to be.

One day you go there to study and you notice something while you are there all day. This man never stops to eat! The irony is, he is busy serving bread to everyone else, but never stops long enough to feed himself. With food all around he is starving himself.

Do you get the picture? Many leaders fail to tend to themselves and eventually are unable to really serve others. They are starving emotionally and spiritually. When they do read their Bibles or listen to a sermon it is always for someone else. They go through the motions but aren't really spending time eating the "bread of life". They are spiritually starving...so close to food, yet never eating.

This reminds us that we must feed ourselves before feeding others.

Leaders are Tone-Setters

What is a tone setter and why do I want to be one?

At UVA, we have a ton of a cappella groups on grounds. Probably more per capita than any other university in the US if I was guessing. What is the first thing that they do before they sing a song a cappella? They take out a harmonica, or a tuning whistle and blow into it. Why? To make sure that everyone starts in the same key and then they all follow that. Could you imagine how it would sound if that all started in different keys? Could you imagine what it would sound like if that all started on the same wrong key? This is why it is so important to have leader's that set the right tone for your fellowship. And if you are going to be a healthy leader—you need to be a person who is keenly aware of what tone you set.

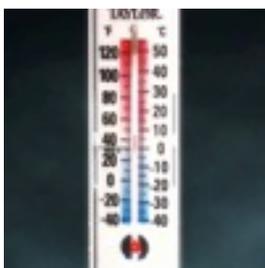
The Tone Setter: Set the atmosphere and the attitude of the ministry.

What is the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat?

A thermostat sets the temperature.

A thermometer only reflects what the temperature is.

(Most people are thermometers. They tend to reflect the culture around them. They buy things that others buy, say things that others say, wear things others wear, value things others value)



What atmosphere and attitudes do we want/not want in our ministry?

Welcoming, hungry, passionate, humble, sincere or authentic, optimistic, encouraging, deep, generous, gracious, loving, faith, teachable

Not want: cliquish, judgmental, critical, proud, lukewarm

In what practical ways do we set the atmosphere or demonstrate attitude in our ministry?

Facial expression, body posture, way we respond to people, service, punctuality, worship, attentiveness—bringing Bible to MNL and taking notes.

Bible Study

Can you find some “environment changers” in Scripture? What will it take for you to be one? (Spend some time looking in Scripture together. Have groups of two look for answers together.)

Jesus washing disciples feet, Jesus healing Malchus’ ear that Peter cut off, Joshua and Caleb, David and Goliath, Moses coming off the mountain, Paul and Peter in Galatians 2

A negative example: Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12—takes a hard line instead of being a servant leader.

IT TAKES **COURAGE** TO BE AN ENVIRONMENT CHANGER. IF THINGS ARE GOING IN A BAD DIRECTION YOU CHANGE IT!

Reflection

Am I aware of the tone I am setting?

Do I have a transferable attitude? (This is a tough question for us to consider. In other words, how would I feel if the rest of the students in our ministry demonstrated my attitude?)