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Stewart Custer Lecture Series

Biblical Leadership: A Theological Perspective

Dr. Les Ollila

Session 1: Where Are the Men? A Theology of Biblical Manhood

Matthew 23:11

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the communicable attributes of God (Gen. 1:26)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over God’s creation (Gen. 1:26)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go forth and multiply (Gen. 1:28)
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fulfilled (Gen. 2:15)
   1. Tend (abἀd) – Expend considerable energy
   2. Keep (shamar) – cause a state of condition to remain (i.e., to keep the garden in its pristine condition, just as he had inherited it)
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ accepted – moral accountability
   1. Divine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – “Every tree you may eat freely” (v. 16)
   2. Divine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – “You shall not eat” (v. 17)
   3. Divine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – “You shall surely die” (v. 17)
      1. Spiritual death
      2. Physical death
      3. Eternal death
6. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:24-25)

* Steps of a godly relationship (Gen. 2:24-25)

1. Leave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Cleave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. One Flesh \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Naked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Three things were perverted in the garden:
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; now there is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; now there is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; now there is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.***

***It is what difference we have made to the lives of others***

***that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”***

Where Are the Men? Steps to the Disintegration of a Society

Isaiah 3:1-7; Ezekiel 22:23-31

1. **Cessation of a succession of great and wise men (Isa. 3:1-3)**

*“The Lord doth take away the might man, and the man of war, the Judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of the fifty, and the honorable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer and the eloquent orator.”*

Men of courage and integrity to exercise judgment and justice were gone.

1. **Active folly in the rulers (Isa. 3:4)**

*“I will give children to be their princes and babes shall rule over them”*

The youthful leader would behave in a childish way.

1. **Development of selfishness among the people (Isa. 3:5a)**

*“[A]nd the people shall be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor;”*

The bonds holding society together are dissolved.

1. **Cessation of respect for age or social rank (Isa. 3:5b)**

*“[T]he child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable.”*

1. **Neglect of their civil duties on the part of the well-to-do classes (Isa. 3:6-7)**
2. **Women shall rule over them (Isa. 3:12a)**

*“[A]s for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them.”*

They are haughty, vain, wanton, and immodest among other things and contribute to the demise of a society which was once under God’s structure.

*“And I sought for a man among them, that I should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me in the land, that I should not destroy it:* ***but I found none****” (Ezek. 22:30).*

1. The **prophets** had conspired against the people for personal gain (Ezek. 22:25).
2. The **priests** who should have been leading the people to holiness through the knowledge of God went into compromise and made no difference between the holy and the profane, the clean and the unclean (Ezek. 22:26).
3. The **princes** (political leaders) were like ravening wolves abusing the people for dishonest gain (Ezek. 22:27). The prophets aided them in their perverse ways with false prophecies.
4. The **people** of the land used oppression and exercised robbery — and have vexed the poor and needy and have oppressed the stranger wrongfully (Ezek. 22:29).

**In the context of flawed leadership and self-serving people of influence God said, “and I sought for a man” (Ezek. 22:30)**

1. The **person** that God sought for was a **man.**

* **Absent in the home** – fatherless homes
* **Absent in the church**
* **Absent in the decayed society**

1. The **purpose** was a man to stand in the gap for God in the land.

* A man of conviction – God is the answer. (David)
* A man of courage – God is the enabler. (Joshua)
* A man of compassion – Love the hard-to-love.
* A man of commitment – See the need and pay the price to get involved.
  + Homes without a father – Who will stand in the gap?
  + James’ exhortation: *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world”* (James 1:27).
  + God is a father to the fatherless. Can we find men to stand in the gap to represent Him to the hurting and helpless? (Ps. 68:15)

1. The **problem** was that God found **none.**

* Did not believe God’s true prophets: Jeremiah and Isaiah
* Deceived by compromising prophet: (example) Jeremiah 28:10 – Hananiah caused confusion.
* Denied that their comfort level would change: Jeremiah 28

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Session 2: Faith – Leading in a Fallen World

Hebrews 11:7

1. The Word – Noah being warned of God

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Noah’s faith

1. Worship – moved with fear

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Noah’s faith

1. Work – prepared an ark

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Noah’s faith

1. Witness – by which he condemned the world

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Noah’s faith

Noah’s obedience put the world in the wrong; he demonstrated his apologetic by his obedience to clearly revealed truth.

1. Wages – saved his household and became the heir of righteousness

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Noah’s faith