

Images of LEADERSHIP



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Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity". Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die."

2 Samuel 12:5-7a, 13



THE LEADER AS SENTINEL



LEADER AS SENTINEL

EZEKIEL 33:1-9

The word of the LORD came to me: ² O Mortal, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one of their number as their sentinel; ³and if the sentinel sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people; ⁴ then if any who hear the sound of the trumpet do not take warning, and the sword comes and takes them away, their blood shall be upon their own heads. ⁵They heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; their blood shall be upon themselves. But if they had taken warning, they would have saved their lives. ⁶ But if the sentinel sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any of them, they are taken away in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at the sentinel's hand. ⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.



What does failure look like for a sentinel?



Make a list of people God has used as sentinels in your life.



When have I seen but not warned? What was the cost? To the person? Group? Myself?

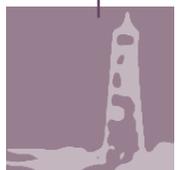


When have I seen, warned, and found repentant hearts? What was the result?

2

What do you learn about the role of sentinel?

THE LEADER AS SENTINEL



EXHORTATION TODAY

3

HEBREWS 3:12-4:1

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." ¹⁶ Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? ¹⁷ But with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. ^{4:1} Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

What do you notice about exhortation?



What is at stake?



How would you get an "evil, unbelieving heart"?



How is sin deceitful?

THE LEADER AS SENTINEL



LEADER AS SENTINEL

4

1 SAMUEL 25

Now Samuel died; and all Israel assembled and mourned for him. They buried him at his home in Ramah.

Then David got up and went down to the wilderness of Paran. ² There was a man in Maon, whose property was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³ Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was clever and beautiful, but the man was surly and mean; he was a Calebite. ⁴ David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. ⁵ So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. ⁶ Thus you shall salute him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. ⁷ I hear that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing, all the time they were in Carmel. ⁸ Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your sight; for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

⁹ When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David; and then they waited. ¹⁰ But Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are breaking away from their masters. ¹¹ Shall I take my bread and my water and the meat that I have butchered for my shearers, and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" ¹² So David's young men turned away, and came back and told him all this. ¹³ David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every one of them strapped on his sword; David also strapped on his sword; and about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

¹⁴ But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he shouted insults at them. ¹⁵ Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we never missed anything when we were in the fields, as long as we were with them; ¹⁶ they were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷ Now therefore know this and consider what you should do; for evil has been decided against our master and against all his house; he is so ill-natured that no one can speak to him."

What is the issue? How does David respond?

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LEADER AS SENTINEL

¹⁸ Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys ¹⁹ and said to her young men, “Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰ As she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. ²¹ Now David had said, “Surely it was in vain that I protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; but he has returned me evil for good. ²² God do so to David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him.”

²³ When Abigail saw David, she hurried and alighted from the donkey, and fell before David on her face, bowing to the ground. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said, “Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt; please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. ²⁵ My lord, do not take seriously this ill-natured fellow, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, your servant, did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

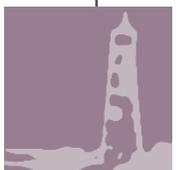
²⁶ “Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, since the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from taking vengeance with your own hand, now let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be like Nabal. ²⁷ And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. ²⁸ Please forgive the trespass of your servant; for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD; and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. ²⁹ If anyone should rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living under the care of the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. ³⁰ When the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you prince over Israel, ³¹ my lord shall have no cause of grief, or pangs of conscience, for having shed blood without cause or for having saved himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant.”

³² David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! ³³ Blessed be your good sense, and blessed be you, who

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How does Abigail serve as a sentinel to David?

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have kept me today from bloodguilt and from avenging myself by my own hand!
³⁴ For as surely as the LORD the God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there would not have been left to Nabal so much as one male.” ³⁵ Then David received from her hand what she had brought him; he said to her, “Go up to your house in peace; see, I have heeded your voice, and I have granted your petition.”

³⁶ Abigail came to Nabal; he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; so she told him nothing at all until the morning light. ³⁷ In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him; he became like a stone. ³⁸ About ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

³⁹ When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD who has judged the case of Nabal’s insult to me, and has kept back his servant from evil; the LORD has returned the evildoing of Nabal upon his own head.” Then David sent and wooed Abigail, to make her his wife. ⁴⁰ When David’s servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, “David has sent us to you to take you to him as his wife.” ⁴¹ She rose and bowed down, with her face to the ground, and said, “Your servant is a slave to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” ⁴² Abigail got up hurriedly and rode away on a donkey; her five maids attended her. She went after the messengers of David and became his wife.



What kind of person is Abigail?

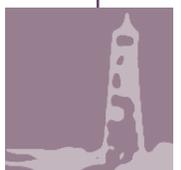


What did Abigail do to change the outcome of this scene?



What are the results of Abigail’s faithful choice?

How does David receive the words of the sentinel Abigail?



WHAT DID ABIGAIL DO TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT?	APPLICATION
<p>1 Even before the conflict happens, Abigail is understood to be a person of action, who will not freeze up but will act to do the right thing. Her servant says (v17), "Now therefore know this and consider what you should do"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Be ready for conflict. Think ahead; make commitments that you won't flee. For your sake, for the sake of friendships, for the sake of your future marriage, etc. •Otherwise, while we waffle, we gossip, complain, become fearful and resentful.
<p>2 Abigail is willing to intercede on behalf of her husband. She is willing to enter in and make peace. She spares no expense, of time or money. She understood the urgency. v18: "Then Abigail hurried..."</p>	<p>Don't be casual about relational tension. Matthew 5:25 stresses this as well: "Come to terms quickly with your accuser..."</p>
<p>3 Abigail sent someone on ahead of her to make peace, as an advocate. v19: "Go on ahead of me" though she didn't decide not to come at all.</p>	<p>Find an advocate, someone who knows both parties to the conflict and who has a stake in a positive outcome.</p>
<p>4 Abigail puts herself in the one-down position. (Though in this case, she is the one in the right, while David is in the wrong.) v24: "Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt"</p>	<p>Often, our justification for our sinful response is the original sin in the first place. "S/he started it!" Be willing to look at your own contribution to the conflict, even if the other's sin seems more egregious (and it usually will).</p>
<p>5 Abigail addresses the original need, the original complaint. She makes amends. v27: she makes a present. She addresses the injustice.</p>	<p>Start not with your own complaint, but with every way in which you were or could possibly have been in the wrong. Don't begin even with trying to be understood, which implies "You were wrong to think that I was in the wrong." Agree first; understand, and you may come to be understood.</p>
<p>6 Abigail reminds David of the promises associated with his life and future—she calls him to live up to what God is doing in him. She thinks future- perfect (v31): "when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant." She speaks of the future as if it were guaranteed.</p>	<p>We need to see the results of our actions clearly -- small choices now can make a huge difference later, for us, for others, for our fellowship or church, for folks who don't know God.</p>
<p>7 V32: Abigail stops speaking and must trust in God: to calm David's anger, to save her life. She didn't flee the conflict, but rode right into it.</p>	<p>We need to have faith that God will come through for us. Ultimately, it is not up to our words, gestures, or schemes. Others' hearts are in God's hands.</p>

"Leaders don't inflict pain; they bear pain." Max DePree, *Leadership is an Art.*

THE LEADER AS SENTINEL

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF ABIGAIL'S FAITHFUL CHOICE?

- David, for his part, is extraordinarily willing to learn from someone less powerful. David receives advice from Abigail as a gift from God.
- David's reputation and conscience is kept clear from guilt.
- God responds to bring justice to the situation beyond what was in David's power. Nabal was going to die either way, but in this way it was an act of God's judgment, not David's anger.
- Through God's judgment of Nabal, David receives the confirmation of God's work in his life and as an advocate for him.
- Abigail ends up with a more reasonable husband, though it is certainly David who gets the better deal.



CONSIDER CLOSE BUT FRACTIOUS RELATIONSHIPS: ROOMMATES, SIBLINGS, PARENTS, GOOD FRIENDS, MINISTRY PARTNERS, BOY/GIRLFRIEND, LEADERSHIP/ AUTHORITY, ETC.

Conflict you are in or one that is typical.	With whom: Familiar circumstances:
What will be the result if things are not addressed?	Short-term: Long-term:
Is there anyone who can act as advocate? Intermediary, someone you both trust	
What would it take on your part to address the original cause of tension?	
How can you put yourself in the one-down position? To what can you confess without requiring prior initiative on their part?	
What would it cost you to take the initiative in this relationship?	
What do you need to receive from God if this is to end well? For what will you need to pray?	
What good will come if this conflict is dealt with speedily, in humility?	For you? For him/her/them? For other stakeholders in this relationship?



THE LEADER AS SENTINEL



ATTITUDE OF THE HEART	SIN'S DECEPTION: WHAT IS PROMISED?	FAITH'S ANTIDOTE
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<p>Bitterness / resentment: harboring a grudge or an unforgiving spirit.</p>	<p>Power over the person - to forgive would be to be subordinate.</p> <p>rights to complain, to be the victim, to self-pity.</p> <p>The person might do it again: "protect yourself."</p> <p>To reconcile would be too much work.</p>	<p>To understand how we've been forgiven by God. Matt 18:21-35</p> <p>To love people who have hurt us for our own heart's sake. Safety is found in forgiving.</p> <p>The punishment for others' sin is built into the system. There is no getting away with it.</p>
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<p>Impatience: the feeling that we should be getting on with something more quickly than we are, leading to a lack of peace, bouts of anger, lack of love for others, and trying to get blessing "our way."</p>		
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<p>Despondency / despair: believing that we are at a dead-end with no way out, a no-win situation. Leads to burnout, lack of interest in prayer, Scripture, ministry.</p>		
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<p>Anxiety: a lack of peace springing from dwelling on some dark scenario that we think will occur in the future.</p>		
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<p>Shame: a belief that we are so totally identified by our sin that we have no value, worth.</p>		
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<p>Regret: a belief that a mistake made in the past virtually rules out a happy future. A re-evaluation of our life and choices in the face of suffering.</p>	<p>You can atone for your sin by feeling very, very bad about it for a long, long time. Since joy, happiness and hope are no longer possibilities for you, you at least have the consolation of not having to try to hope for them.</p>	<p>Romans 8:28-39. In all these things we are more than conquerors... I.E. things that we thought were stumbling blocks prove to be stepping stones (with faith). We will experience joy, hope and love by turning even the disappointments of our lives over to God for healing. John 21:15-17: the reinstatement of Peter.</p>
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<p>Jealousy or envy: becoming angry or upset when we see a person get something we wish we had.</p>		
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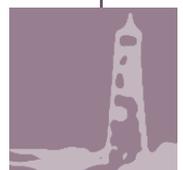


FAITH AND THE HEART OF UNBELIEF

ATTITUDE OF THE HEART	SIN'S DECEPTION: WHAT IS PROMISED?	FAITH'S ANTIDOTE
<p>Critical Spirit: exalting oneself by harshly evaluating others, leading to cruelty and unreasonable demands. Also leads to gossip.</p>		
<p>Drivenness: rejecting the sabbath.</p>	<p>Your life (and ministry) will only work out if you keep working hard.</p>	<p>Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 11:38-42; Psalm 23:1-3.</p>
<p>Sloth / laziness: avoiding hard work and suffering; devaluing the significance of what we are called to be doing. Escapism.</p>	<p>Rest is more important than work. Leisure will restore you. Indulgence in your own rest is required to be able to accomplish anything. I will always have tomorrow to do what I don't do today.</p>	<p>God was a worker (six days of creation, one day of rest). Make the most of the time, for the days are evil (Eph 5:16).</p>
<p>Self-protection: covering up, withdrawing or pulling away from community and ministry in order to avoid the pain of self-revelation or intentional suffering.</p>		
<p>Divisiveness: acting to cause disunity in a group by exalting the distinctiveness of oneself or a subgroup to which one belongs.</p>		
<p>Covetousness: discontent with what we possess or with our station or situation in life. Negative comparisons with others. Lack of generosity, hospitality. Gluttony, hoarding, consumerism.</p>		
<p>Deceit: lying; knowingly falsifying the truth; unwillingness to confess sin.</p>		
<p>Lust / Immorality: lack of self-control in the sexual area. Lustful thoughts. Inappropriate sexual activity. Use of pornography, visual stimulation. Creating inappropriate sexual tension. Habitual masturbation.</p>		
<p>Pride / self-adulation: savoring something one has done or said (or some distinctive) as particularly good, clever, wise, creative. Positive comparisons to others. Competitiveness, provoking others, and making others look bad.</p>		



THE LEADER AS SENTINEL



1

You have often heard from Danny, a member of your small group, about his desire to develop in friendships. The small group offers him great potential in this area, but he takes little initiative during the evening meetings, and none outside of that time. Last night presented the perfect opportunity for Danny; the meeting was structured around a sharing and prayer time in 3-4 person groups. Instead of speaking up and being open, Danny just appeared sullen and distant during the meeting, and neither listened actively nor sought an opportunity to speak up. The evening ended and it seemed that nothing had changed.

- What would you like to ask Danny?
- What might be possible heart issues to address?
- How might you say what Danny needs to understand in a hearable way?
- What are the costs to Danny and to the small group if this isn't addressed?

2

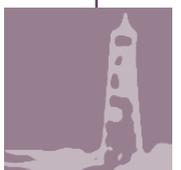
Your ministry partner, Anne, always seems nervous about your ministry's upcoming outreach events, to which many people contribute by playing music, hosting, taking care of logistics, and inviting their friends. It seems her demeanor is affecting the faith and expectations of the rest of the team. You decide to talk with her.

- What would you like to ask Anne?
- What might be possible heart issues to address?
- How could you frame what Anne needs to hear from you in a hearable way?
- What are your hopes for Anne and for the team?

3

Art, a coworker at your office, is a young Christian and has expressed interest in visiting your church. You have observed Art in the office and on the road-- he is a fast moving, ambitious guy who drives aggressively and uses his horn a lot. Last week, Art received word that he didn't get an important assignment he was hoping for. Upset, Art has begun to find fault with anyone and everyone, including you.

- What might be a good way to proceed with Art?
- What questions do you have?
- What would you hope Art could come to see?
- How might you reflect what you've seen to Art in a hearable way?



SUPERVISION AND FEEDBACK

FAST FEEDBACK

- : Not simply annually.
- : Generated by actual observation.
- : Not simply "Good job" or "poor performer" but details.
- : When you observe it you say it.

BOTH

- : Public affirmation is very powerful. Not simply on special occasions, when it might be expected.
- : Being clear but expressing hope for change.

Fear or laziness can prevent giving feedback.

EXHORTATION PERSONAL CASE STUDY

When is the last time you had a chance to give feedback to someone who might look to you for leadership?

What did you feel?

What did you think?

What did you say to that person?

What did you say to someone else?

What part of this is hard for you?

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frequent

accurate

specific

timely

affirmation

critique



FURTHER RESOURCES

The One Minute Manager is a brief narrative account of an organization led by an effective manager who is a timely sentinel, out of fierce commitment both to the people in his organization and its effectiveness as an organization. Part of the One Minute Manager's secret is in catching people doing something right, and then praising them for it. But also, he speaks about a "One Minute Reprimand":

"The One Minute Reprimand works well when you:

1. Tell people beforehand that you are going to let them know how they are doing in no uncertain terms.

The first half of the reprimand:

2. Reprimand people immediately.
3. Tell people what they did wrong--be specific.
4. Tell people how you feel about what they did wrong--and in no uncertain terms.
5. Stop for a few seconds of uncomfortable silence to let them feel how you feel.

The second half of the reprimand:

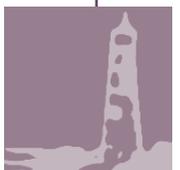
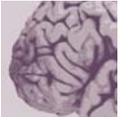
6. Shake hands, or touch them in a way that lets them know you are honestly on their side.
7. Remind them how much you value them.
8. Reaffirm that you think well of them but not of their performance in this situation.
9. Realize that when the reprimand is over, it's over." The One Minute Manager, p59.

The One-Minute Manager, Kenneth Blanchard and Spencer Johnson. New York:

William Morrow, 1982.

Leadership is an Art, Max DePree. Michigan State University Press, 1987.

Future Grace, John Piper. Multnomah, 1995. For a thorough treatment of the hearts of unbelief (anxiety, pride, shame, impatience, covetousness, bitterness, despondency, lust).



ATTITUDE OF THE HEART

SIN'S DECEPTION: WHAT IS PROMISED?

FAITH'S ANTIDOTE

Impatience: the feeling that we should be getting on with something more quickly than we are, leading to a lack of peace, bouts of anger, lack of love for others, and trying to get blessing "our way."

- Take action, take control, make things happen.
- "God helps those who help themselves!"
- Get what you can while you can!
- I can't wait. My _____ is too important.

James 1:3-6: Pray for wisdom.
 Mark 5:21-34: Tyranny of the urgent
 John 15:6: Apart from me you can do nothing
 Matt 5:5: "Blessed are the meek"
 Luke 10:25-37: extravagant servant-hood
 Isaiah 64:4: God works if we wait.
 Prov. 21:5; Isa 40:28-31; 50:10-11

Despondency / despair: believing that we are at a dead-end with no way out, a no-win situation. Leads to burnout, lack of interest in prayer, Scripture, ministry.

A reverse pride: You are so messed up, not even God loves you or can do anything to help you.
 "If you had real faith this wouldn't be happening to you."
 "Feel sorry for yourself—someone has got to." Self pity leads to encouragement.
 Tension in life comes from having reality not meet expectations. You can eliminate this painful tension by reducing your hope to zero. Hope = reality = 0 (no tension)

Josh 1:7-9; Ps 16:11; 23:1-6; 42:1-11; Isa 64:4
 Ps. 73: Worship, focus on God, his help, his justice
 Romans 8:28-39: All things work together for good... we are more than conquerors...
 Psalm 40: "I waited for the LORD, ... he drew me up from the desolate pit"
 2 Corinthians 4:17; Phil 1:6; Heb 10:35-38
 Mark 9:24: "I believe, help my unbelief!"

Anxiety: a lack of peace springing from dwelling on some dark scenario that we think will occur in the future.

If you worry, you can control. Worry is productive.
 If you aren't worrying, you haven't done enough. Enough worry absolves you if you fail.
 The more worried you are, the more God will respond.

Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Peter 5:7; Phil 4:4-7, 13; Psalm 23; Isaiah 7:9; 41:10; 43:1-7; 51:12
 Luke 10:38-42, Mary/Martha
 Ps 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house..."

Shame: a belief that we are so totally identified by our sin that we have no value, worth.

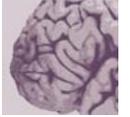
Don't go to God, that'll just make your shame worse! Avoid God = avoid pain.
 You have sinned so bad not even God can forgive you. Wow! You are so remarkable!
 If you feel bad enough then God will forgive you (i.e., you yourself can atone for your sins) Enough shame will bring forgiveness.

Every sin God can forgive. (1 John 1:9). There is no condemnation! Rom 8:1
 But God only forgives sin because of the death of Jesus. Nothing we do adds to Jesus' work.
 Psalm 45:10, Ephesias 5:8
 John 21:15-19: The reinstatement of Peter
 Romans 6:5-14; Psalm 139, Nathan with David: "The Lord has put away your sin."

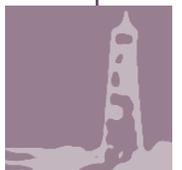
Jealousy or envy: becoming angry or upset when we see a person get something we wish we had.

You deserve more than you have received. Life has not been fair to you. Look at your friends—they get all the breaks! Focus on your status as victim: that will help you.

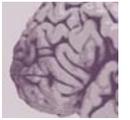
Phil 4:12: contentment in all circumstances.
 Psalm 37:1-10: "Do not fret over those who prosper in their way..."
 Psalm 73; Gal 5:19-21; Phil 4:12; 1 Thess 5:18



THE LEADER AS SENTINEL



ATTITUDE OF THE HEART	SIN'S DECEPTION: WHAT IS PROMISED?	FAITH'S ANTIDOTE
<p>Critical Spirit: exalting oneself by harshly evaluating others, leading to cruelty and unreasonable demands. Also leads to gossip.</p>	<p>You will be happier putting others down. Putting others down feels just like being exalted yourself. Your high standards show you are a person of remarkable stature/class/taste.</p>	<p>Matt 7:1-5: Judge not... also Matt 5:21-4 1 Cor 4:1-5: Let God be the judge Rom 14:13; Gal 5:13-15; 6:1-2 Micah 6:8 Walk humbly with God Matthew 7: Judge not, lest you be judged. Luke 18: Parable of Tax Collector and Pharisee Philippians 2: consider others; Phil 4:8, think on these things.</p>
<p>Self-protection: covering up, withdrawing or pulling away from community and ministry in order to avoid the pain of self-revelation or intentional suffering.</p>	<p>If you open up you will experience pain and disappointment You will be happier knowing you rely only on yourself Others don't merit your trust. Withholding it will punish them. God won't protect you; you can, however, protect yourself.</p>	<p>Mark 8:34-37: Lose your life to gain it Luke 10:25-37: The Good Samaritan 1 Cor 12:12-27: The parts of the body need each other Phil 2:1-11: the mind of Christ: a servant 2 Tim 2:1-13: Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.</p>
<p>Divisiveness: acting to cause disunity in a group by exalting the distinctiveness of oneself or a subgroup to which one belongs.</p>	<p>Causing disunity increases your own power and hence satisfaction Only by showing your distinctives will your superiority be manifest</p>	<p>1 Cor 1:10-13; 12:12-13, 24-26 Gal 5:19-21; 6:7-10; Col 3:11-15</p>
<p>Covetousness: discontent with what we possess or with our station or situation in life. Negative comparisons with others. Lack of generosity, hospitality. Gluttony, hoarding, consumerism.</p>		<p>Psalm 23; Matt 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21; Phil 4:11-13; 1 Tim 6:6-12; Heb 13:5-6</p>
<p>Deceit: lying; knowingly falsifying the truth; unwillingness to confess sin.</p>	<p>If I speak the truth I will not be happy. If people knew the truth about me they would reject me.</p>	<p>Lev 19:11: You shall not deal falsely... You shall not lie. Psa 51:6: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Proverbs 13:5-6; 20:17 Acts 5:1-10: Ananias and Sapphira Col 3:9-10</p>
<p>Lust / Immorality: lack of self-control in the sexual area. Lustful thoughts. Inappropriate sexual activity. Use of pornography, visual stimulation. Creating inappropriate sexual tension. Habitual masturbation.</p>		<p>Matt 5:27-30; Mark 7:20-23; 1 Cor 7:8-9 Gal 5:19-24 Gal 6:7-10</p>
<p>Pride / self-adulation: savoring something one has done or said (or some distinctive) as particularly good, clever, wise, creative. Positive comparisons to others. Competitiveness, provoking others, and making others look bad.</p>		<p>Deut 8:14-18; Jer 9:24; Ezek 18:29-32 Matt 23:12: All who exalt themselves will be humbled. 1 Cor 1:28-31: God chose the low ... 1 Cor 4:7: "What have you that you did not receive? ... Why do you boast...?" James 4:6-8; 1 Peter 5:5</p>



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1. You have often heard from Danny...

- What would you like to ask Danny? What were you feeling last night at small group meeting? I noticed you didn't participate much. After we have talked about how you could build friendships in the group, what kinds of things do you think prevented your joining in?
- What might be possible heart issues to address? It is helpful to acknowledge that two things are going on here: Danny probably has a wound to be healed as well as a deception to be debunked. He needs to receive prayer and attention in a way that registers as affirmation, that he is valuable and precious to God, and therefore to the small group. But he also needs to be called past the lies he has believed that no one cares about him or likes him and therefore he doesn't belong. His belief in those lies produces a self-reinforcing loop--it makes him less able to initiate, hence less attractive to initiate with.
- How might you say what Danny needs to understand in a hearable way? "Danny, I'd like to help you receive what you need to get from God in order to be able to take steps of friendship in the small group."
- What are the costs to Danny and to the small group if this isn't addressed? Small group will remain a frustrating time for Danny; more and more it will seem like a party to which he's not invited but which he sees being played out every week. He needs to hear clearly that he's been invited, but that he has a role to play if he wants to feel at home.

2. Your ministry partner, Anne...

- What questions do you have for Anne? How are you feeling about the events? How have they gone for you? What do you feel good about? Not good about?
- What might be possible heart issues to address? Anxiety, fear, lack of trust in God, inability to trust others with their role in the program, feelings of carrying the whole thing on her shoulders. Anne seems to fear that "God won't show up." Perhaps she thinks, "My worry is the only thing holding this outreach event together." These things are deceptions. Anxiety robs Anne of the enjoyment and satisfaction of the event: Jesus is taken out of the picture. It also affects the team's faith and vision.
- How could you frame what Anne needs to hear from you in a hearable way? "I normally think of you as a fairly joyful person--that's why I was excited to work with you on these events. But I've been noticing that you seem very tense. It seems like anxiety has been robbing you of your enjoyment of our outreach. I'd really love to see you enjoy it--for your own sake, and because I think if you have fun it will be contagious for the rest of the team. As it stands, it is more your anxiety that the team is catching from you. What could we do to help you receive a little more freedom from Jesus, for your sake and for the team's?"
- What are your hopes for Anne and for the team? If Anne has a valid critique of the outreach events, I want to hear her express it productively, not as worry. I want her to grow in faith. I also want the team to respond well to her, not just writing her off because of her needless worry.

3. Art, a coworker at your office, ...

- What might be a good way to proceed with Art? How are you doing? I've noticed these things... Are they connected? You need to build a relationship with Art without being judgmental.
- What questions do you have? Is Art aware of how he's treating people? Is he eager to grow? "Art, how do you see this decision? Where is God in it? How could this be viewed as an opportunity?"
- What would you hope Art could come to see? Art's anger, impatience, entitlement and/or jealousy. I would want him to see the way sin has deceived him to believe that it is possible for God's good intentions for him to be thwarted by someone else's decision re: his career. I would hope Art could see that God is giving him a chance to trust him.
- How might you reflect what you've seen to Art in a hearable way? It is likely you have a story of some similar kind of situation where God later made it clear to you how this decision actually worked out for your good, though you didn't recognize it at the time. It may be that you are not able to get to a sentinel relationship with Art, if it seems he's not open to taking a look at how he's responding to this situation.

