

MSG: SUBMISSION, Vol.2

Scripture: James 4:6-7, 1 Peter 2:11-17 NIV

SZN 3: Lead Like Jesus

James 4:6-7

“But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

1 Peter 2:11-17 NIV

“Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.”

1. SUBMISSION PROMOTES INFLUENCE

1 Peter 2:11-17 NIV

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.”

-Submitted servants motivate both the heart and hand of others!

2. WALK IT LIKE I TALK IT. -R.IP. TAKEOFF

-Model, cast and embody a worthwhile vision, mission, values and culture- This is critical!

-Modeling keeps you and everyone else honest.

LIVE FREE SO OTHER LIVE FREE

-Ask The right questions - This inevitably creates an environment for honest feedback, that implies “I value healthy change.”

“I’m just being honest....it’d hurt more if I lied”

-Roman

3. DECREASE YOUR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE YOUR INFLUENCE

-Jethro, Moses Father-in-law, who did not carry the positional authority as Moses did with the children of Israel. Even from a familial relational perspective, Jethro carried even less authority with Israel given his history. However, Jethro maximized his influence in giving Moses the wisdom in how to manage the affairs of the nation. Even “positioning” other leaders to oversee different numbers of groups of the nation. Jethro leveraged his influence to serve the people and did so with one conversation that lightened the load for Moses, empowered other Godly women and men and positioned Moses to remain in the presence of God on behalf of the people.

-Don't rely on simply positional authority to accomplish the vision and mission.

-Our ambitions to seek greatness in the eyes of our peers seem meaningless in light of a broader more vibrant, dare I say riskier proposition to greatness-willful submission.

However, I'm reminded by Paul, **2 Cor.4:17**, **“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”**

QUESTION:

IS YOUR INFLUENCE GROWING BECAUSE YOU ARE SUBMITTING REGULARLY?

4. SUBMISSION PROVIDES WISDOM

Hebrews 13:17 NIV

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”

Watchmen Nee speaks of learning the discipline of self-denial with the statement so simple yet profound. “Please remember that neither God nor the brothers and sisters treasure your opinion. I'm afraid that the only one who treasures your opinion in the whole world is yourself. If you think your opinion is the best, that God treasures our opinion and that brothers and sisters honor your ideas, you are living in a dream” (Nee, *Authority and Submission*, p. 112)

David begins and ends his biblical narrative with clear understanding of submission. Initially, when Saul, hastily and foolishly goes into battle at Gugal, the prophet Samuel rebukes Saul “But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.” (1 Samuel 13:14)

David did this in three ways that we can today:

5. PRIORITIZE SUBMISSION TO THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH YOUR PASTORS.

David submitted to the Word of God Through God's deputized authority in the prophets, Samuel and Nathan.

6. PRIORITIZE HONORING YOUR PREDECESSORS

(Parents, OG's, pastors, civic leaders etc)

prioritized honoring God's anointed king in Saul, and he regularly through his leadership prioritized the presence of God.

7. PRIORITIZE THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

-Subversively shy away from a notion of "human wisdom" and completely surrender and submit to the wisdom of God.

- if we are truly submitted to God, we must say and think only what God says and thinks. This is in direct opposition to the cultural norm of social media, "my platform", "my following" etc.

-Having the wisdom of God, hearing the voice of God and the Word of God to effectively lead, plan, strategize, recalibrate, adjust, pivot, stay the course, set tempo, slow down or stop all together.

SET YOURSELF ASIDE BY SATURATING YOURSELF IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

- being still, listening to his voice - so that we can be our best, sanctified, consecrated and set apart for God's use.

-willing to let go of our wills.

We must dare to do as John prescribed "**He must become greater; I must become less.**" (John 3:30)

QUESTION:

WHO IS IN YOUR LIFE REGULARLY GIVING YOU GODLY WISDOM AND GODLY COUNCIL?