



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Anointed Leaders

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THEME Pillars of a Healthy Church

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

WHAT MAKES LEADERS ANOINTED?

What sets an *anointed leader* apart from a *leader*?

An anointed leader need not necessarily be found only in church, but could also refer to individuals in the various spheres of influences, be it in the homes, marketplace or society. Only in true obedience to God can a *leader* be an *anointed leader*. Elder Low Kok Guan contrasts the life of Israel's first King, King Saul (1 Samuel 15) against the life of the greatest King, Jesus, and shares with us the 3 key steps we must take in order to be an anointed leader – to *LISTEN*, *LEARN* and *LEAD*.

ANOINTED LEADERSHIP – 3 KEY STEPS

1. LISTEN

In 1 Samuel 15: 1-3, God's message to Saul was clear; to fully destroy all that belonged to the Amalekites. However, Saul had only responded to the instructions in partial obedience, destroying all that were despised and weak, but sparing Agag, the best of the sheep, cattle, fat calves and lambs.

God's instructions to us are meant to help us succeed, for only He knows the best but this is only possible with the condition of our obedience. Saul's disobedience to the instructions of God grieved Him (1 Samuel 15:11). In the same vein, what will truly delight God's heart are not the sacrifices that we make (1 Samuel 15:22), but instead, our choice to listen and obey His word.

2. LEARN

An anointed leader must always learn, unlearn, and relearn with a contrite heart. In 1 Samuel 15: 20-21, despite Samuel's admonishment, Saul justified his disobedience to God with reasons that mirrored his heart that was full of pride and without gratitude. He was unable to see where he had failed, and did not truly repent. In 1 Samuel 15:12, 30, the pride and self-serving attitude that were entrenched in Saul's heart was clearly revealed, which kept him away from forming a true relationship with God.

Elder Low reiterates that anointed leaders are not perfect, but should always be in the continuous learning process to becoming godly, and this can be done through 4 channels, namely a. courses, b. reading, c. mentors and d. application.

3. LEAD

Not all leaders lead. One of the reasons why Saul had chosen to disobey the Lord was because of his fear of man, which he caved in to because of his need for their approval (1 Samuel 15: 24). To be an anointed leader, Galatians 1:10 teaches us that the fear of man will cause us to lose the fear of the Lord.

It should be highlighted that there are severe consequences to sin and not heeding God's instructions. Following Saul's disobedience, he eventually died at the hands of an Amalekite soldier, while Agag's descendent, Haman (Esther 3:1), became a persecutor of all the Jews. These outcomes would have been different if Saul had chosen to obey and 'totally destroy' all that belonged to the Amalekites.

God's instructions for us to lead in diligence (Romans 12:8) implies the need for hard work. We need to firstly know the state of our flock, and intentionally make time to think through *how* we should lead.

Conclusion

Jesus was an anointed leader – He listened to only His Father God (John 5:19), He learned obedience through suffering (Hebrews 5:8), and led by example in a posture of service and love to others (Matthew 20:25-28). Anointed leaders are people who walk with God and serve from the overflow of their walk with Him. Put into practice the 3 key steps to *listen, learn and lead* in partnership with the Spirit and we will be able to serve and lead others, wherever we are.

QUESTIONS

1. Think of someone whom you would consider as an anointed leader – why and what is it about him/her that you respect?

**2. (a) Identify a sphere of influence in which you want to make an impact in.
2. (b) To listen, learn and lead – which of these steps do you find the most challenging in this identified sphere, and why?**

3. Jesus showed us what it means to lead (Matt 20:25-28). Take this time to reflect on your specific area of serving (be it as a leader or a member of a ministry). Commit to 3 simple steps you can undertake to strengthen yourself in the identified areas of struggle from Q2(b), and share with the cell.