

Pillars Leadership Series Slide

Talk about Pillars Leadership Emphasis

While there will be some new opportunities to learn and grow and serve in ways that grow and stretch you- a lot of what we want to do is take on some of the same things we've been doing in our church and in your life with new eyes and a new attitude.

Riding in a car when you're 5 v. 14

The great jazz musician Louis Armstrong once gave some advice to anyone who wanted to play jazz-

"If ya ain't got it in ya, ya can't blow it out!" - Louis Armstrong

Before you perform, before you have some worthwhile to give- you have to be filled.

You have to receive before you give.

Gen 2:7 & 15

Creation story- God literally breathes humanity alive-
He puts breath in

And immediately following we're told of his plan- that he puts them in the garden not just to enjoy being alive..but ALSO to work and keep the garden.

To be fruitful and multiply. As it more directly translates in the Hebrew- to worship and obey.

To phrase it like Louis Armstrong- "God put breath in them- so that they would blow it out."

Just by the nature of being a human- created in God's image- you have received a life unlike any other living thing.

The breath of God.

No other created thing can "blow it out" because no other created thing "got it in them"

Foundational Truth about Humans-

We are made to both receive and give.

That leads me to another jazz musician. Maybe the greatest.

On December 9, 1964- John Coltrane gathered with his quartet McCoy Tyler on Piano, Jimmy Garrison on bass, and Elvin Jones on drums- with Coltrane on the tenor sax- and in a few hours created one of the most beloved, admired albums in the history of jazz music.

Its 4 movements- a total of 33 minutes in length. And though I won't pretend to be a credible jazz critic- or even real fan- even as a casual listener- you can hear the magic in this recording.

The title of the record is “A Love Supreme”

It was the only album that Coltrane ever included liner notes on. In the liner notes- there was a poem- a psalm- that was to be read with the final movement on the record- called- Psalm.

The Psalm sounded like a biblical Psalm. Full of praise and gratitude for God.

“God breathes through us so completely...so gently we hardly feel it... yet, it is our everything.”- John Coltrane

In the summer of 1964- his wife Alice- had just had their first baby- so Coltrane had turned an upstairs room to a studio so he could be home.

Alice says one day John walked down out of that room, having just written “A Love Supreme” and said to her

“This is the first time that I have received all of the music for what I want to record,”

Note that word: *Received*. He didn’t say composed. He didn’t say created. It was a gift he received from God to share with the world.

The album was the fruit of something that Coltrane received 7 years prior. He had an addiction to alcohol and heroin that started to deeply affect his work- and he was fired in 1957 from Miles Davis’ band. Finally getting to an all time low- Coltrane recommitted himself to his faith in God and to his art.

“During the year 1957, I experienced, by the grace of God, a spiritual awakening which was to lead me to a richer, fuller, more productive life. At that time, in gratitude, I asked to be given the means and privilege to make others happy through music.”- John Coltrane

A couple of weeks ago, I showed you this

Grace and Grit pic

Pillars Pray to Cultivate. Full of Grit.

TITLE “A Love Supreme: Why Pillars Need a Growth Mindset”- Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one’s ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately 16 the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. 17 In the same way the man with two earned two more. 18 But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.
20 The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I’ve earned five more talents.’

21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’

22 “The man with two talents also approached. He said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I’ve earned two more talents.’

23 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’

24 “The man who had received one talent also approached and said, ‘Master, I know you. You’re a harsh man, reaping where you haven’t sown and gathering where you haven’t scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

26 “His master replied to him, ‘You evil, lazy servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven’t sown and gather where I haven’t scattered, 27 then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned.’

28 “ ‘So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Explain parable

Comes in a section in Matthew 24-25 where Jesus is teaching about his second coming.

Basically- how should we wait between the time that Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended to heaven...

...and when he comes back to make the world new.

10 virgins parable- “Be Ready”

This parable- How to actively wait. but more than that- Its about wasted opportunity

Of course- later- just before he ascends to heaven- he gives direct instructions that clear it all up.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Make disciples.

Lead people to Jesus.

This is why we're focusing on leadership.

Because every single one you been given a gift. and a calling.

If you are a Christian- you are called to use what you have been given to make disciples of Jesus. And that requires leading people to follow him. Serving them. Investing in them.

v 23

In the parable 2 servants that “put their money to work” received the same commendation from the master.

Wide range of responsibility- calling- gifting.

Same level of accountability. Same expectation of the Grit- the work- the effort that should drive us.

Scripture always moving us away from comparison and envy- and asking us to focus on what IS put into our hands and how we're going to use it for the kingdom of God.

v 28-30

At the end of this parable- we get this simple truth.

What God puts in your hands to steward- to put to work for his Kingdom- to partner with him in making disciples- and bringing beauty and flourishing to the world- if you don't use it in that way...you lose it.

And you suffer the deep frustration and pain of a wasted opportunity. The frustration of the gray.

But for those who receive from God- no matter the amount, ability, gift of talent- and go out and put it to work for his Kingdom- you will share in the masters joy and what you have been entrusted with will grow.

1) Faithful servants have a growth mindset that risks. Wicked servants have a fixed mindset that doesn't.

Angela Duckworth book “Grit”

Fixed mindset- you have limited talent- and thats your ceiling.

Growth mindset- If I take what I've been given- and put it work- I can grow and get better

Fixed mindset just keeps comparing and stays safe in the gray.

Growth mindset is focused on the opportunity of what can be done.

Is it genius or talent or social position

Leaders provide flourishing for others.
Authority- the capacity for meaningful action
Vulnerability- the exposure to meaningful risk

Open hand- receive
Open hand- Give

Growth mindset depends on hope.

Don't quit when it gets difficult. That's when you'll grow!

Requires a different kind of "fixed" mindset. Not Fixed in the static sense- but thinking about the hope that awaits you for sure. The one, no matter how much you risk- you can't possibly lose.

Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. -

Romans 8:31-32; 37-39

31 What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OVERCOMERS- that's a growth mindset. But it comes back to grace- what are you sure God has given you. Not just to use- but do you have a secure HOPE for the future.

2) What you believe about the Giver, changes how you use the gift.

I am NOT my performance. BUT- WHO I AM CHANGES my performance!
Ref Luke 3 baptism.

The wicked servant saw the master the wrong way- and therefore saw his own identity and calling the wrong way.

v 24-25

He thinks him to be unfair. His attitude is not on what he gains WITH master...but what he stands to lose BECAUSE of the master.

The master doesn't want to share- he wants to take and punish.

Your concept of God.

Keep going back to Grace.

Pillars PRAY to cultivate. Full of Grit.

The reason why we say Pillars PRAY- is because it is dependent. Keeps sending us back to the giver.

Luke 7:47

Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little."

2 Peter 1:3-11

3 His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, 7 godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. 10 Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble. 11 For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

Blurred lines- between Grace and Grit- because they are all happening at the same time.

Back to 2)

Who do you believe God to be? A loving father saving you from your sin- by grace- gifting you with the ability to take meaningful action and be exposed to meaningful risk?

To make disciples of Jesus- even though its hard?

Or will you bury your talent- in a frustrating Gray Life that closes your hand around the little you have- thinking God is always putting you to the test-

"If ya ain't got it in ya, ya can't blow it out!"- Louis Armstrong

You need to go back to the grace of God.
What Christ has done.

Begin again.

Share the gospel.
Challenge to leadership and risk.