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THE FAITH-FILLED LEADER

I. Introduction

- A. The Need for Faith-Filled Leaders
- B. The Privilege of Faith-Filled Leadership
- C. The Creation of Faith-Filled Leadership
- D. 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

II. The Context of Faith

"After these things and these acts of faithfulness Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself..." 2 Chronicles 32:1

- A. We never move beyond the need for faith.
- B. Faith is not the absence of vulnerability.
- C. Faith filled leadership means helping people anticipate, see, and identify their need.

"Cynicism begins, oddly enough, with too much of the wrong kind of faith, with naïve optimism or foolish confidence. At first glance, genuine faith and naïve optimism appear identical since both foster confidence and hope. But the similarity is only surface deep. Genuine faith comes from knowing my heavenly Father loves, enjoys, and cares for me. Naïve optimism is groundless. It is childlike trust without the loving Father." Paul Miller

"Shattered optimism sets us up for the fall into defeated weariness and, eventually, cynicism. You'd think it would just leave us less optimistic, but we humans don't do neutral well. We go from seeing the bright side of everything to seeing the dark side of everything. We feel betrayed by life." Paul Miller

III. The Action of Faith

- A. Faith takes action in anticipation of God's activity.

"And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the springs of water...He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall

that was broken down and raised towers upon it...He also made weapons and shields...he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them... " 2 Chronicles 32:2-6

- B. Faith filled leadership includes the call to action.

IV. The Theology of Faith

"He...spoke encouragingly to them, saying, 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.'" 2 Chronicles 32:7-8

- A. Faith connects real life to Biblical theology.
- B. Faith is focused on God's proven character.
- C. Faith filled leadership is expressed through Biblical encouragement.

V. The Enemy of Faith

"Now, therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!" 2 Chronicles 32:15

- A. The voice of doubt often attacks leaders.
- B. The voice of doubt always often questions our faithfulness.
- C. The voice of doubt always blasphemes the character of God.
- D. The voice of doubt is always clear and persuasive.
- E. Faith filled leadership must identify the voices of doubt in the siege of faith.

VI. The Goal of Faith

'The Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem..." 2 Chronicles 1:20-22

- A. Faith trusts all to the mercy, goodness, and wisdom of God.

- B. Faith will be rewarded by the sight the supernatural glory of God.
- C. Faith will be rewarded by the downfall of the voice of doubt.

VII. Conclusion—THE Faith Filled Leader

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1-2*

- A. There is only one Leader with Perfect Faith
- B. Above all, faith filled leadership means meditating and trusting in His finished work and helping others do the same.
- C. Our faith and our leadership are acts of worship, reflecting in our limited, imperfect way his perfect faithfulness—Offerings of Faith Perfected by the Perfect Mediator, Jesus Christ.
- D. The Faith filled leader views all of life as a series of opportunities for God to display his glory in Jesus Christ for the good of his people through the power of the Holy Spirit.