

# Servant Leadership for a Broken World

## I. The Power of Identity

Demonstrated by the relationship between the Father and the Son.

*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded (John 13:3-5 NKJV).*

- Jesus had the sense of Provision
- Jesus had the sense of Purpose
- Jesus had the sense of Peace

*When it came to His relationship with the Father and His own identity Jesus was secure.*

*No fear of failure + No fear of rejection = True Liberty in Christ.*

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## II. The Power of Encouragement

### A. Looking at the life of Barnabas

- An encourager is Practical

*And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet (Acts 4:36-37 NKJV).*

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- An encourager is a Risk-Taker

*And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:26-27 NKJV).*

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- An encourager is All-In

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord (Acts 11:19-24 NKJV).

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- An encourager is Others-Centered

*Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:25-26 NKJV).*

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- An encourager is Available

*Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. (Acts 13:1-3 NKJV).*

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- An encourager is Long-Suffering

*And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant (Acts 13:5 NKJV).*

*Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13 NKJV).*

*Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God (Acts 15:36-40 NKJV).*

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*God has... “saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9 NKJV).*

## **B. The Fruit of Encouragement**

*Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry (2 Timothy 4:11 NKJV).*

*She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son (1 Peter 5:13 NKJV).*

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## **III. The Power of Relationship**

### **A. An Acts 3 Encounter**

*<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; <sup>3</sup> who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup> And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. <sup>8</sup> So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup> Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*

*<sup>11</sup> Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed (Acts 3:1-11 NKJV).*

1. Peter and John offered the beggar a sense of worth (vs. 3-4)
  - by giving him their time and attention
  - by not judging or condemning him
  - by joining God in what He's doing
  
2. Peter and John offered the beggar a reason to hope (vs. 4-5)
  - by creating expectancy and belief
  - by commanding attention and focus
  - by building confidence and faith
  
3. Peter and John offered the beggar an introduction to Christ (vs. 6)
  - by acknowledging His name/His reality
  - by acknowledging His deity/His power
  - by acknowledging His humanity/His availability
  
4. Peter and John offered the beggar help (vs. 6-7)
  - by being engaged/involved
  - by being practical/pragmatic
  - by being genuine/authentic
  
5. Peter and John offered the beggar a sense of belonging (vs. 8-10)
  - by accepting him where he was/for who he was
  - by leading him in a new direction
  - by writing him a new identity/with a different script
  
6. Peter and John offered the beggar an opportunity to witness (vs. 9-11)
  - by being visible and present
  - by confirming the improbable and impossible
  - by drawing the lost/the hungry

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## B. The Things We Should Earnestly Seek

- **Humility** - to approach the one who is hurting
- **Discernment** - to understand what God is saying and doing
- **Wisdom** - to know what to do with what God reveals
- **Grace** - to apply God’s solution in the matter
- **Power** - to push through the resistance of the “evil one”
- **Love** - to “cover a multitude of sins”

## IV. The Power of a Seed

### Viewing Ourselves and Others with the Eyes of Christ

- How God looks at others (i.e., 1 Samuel 16:1-13).
- How God looks at us (i.e., 1 Peter 1:23).

### God’s Optometry Shop

*Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches” (Matthew 13:31-32 NKJV).*

*So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you (Mathew 17:20 NKJV).*

Source: Presenters notes from Eric Scalise, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT

About the Presenter:



Ministering the grace and love of Jesus Christ, Rich Denning is a pastor, teacher, and leadership coach with twenty years pastoral experience. He holds his Associate of Arts in General Education and Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministries from Emmanuel College, Franklin Springs, Ga. He completed his Master of Divinity at Erskine Theological Seminary in Due West, SC and earned his Doctorate of Ministry at Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA. For more information go to: [www.pastordenning.com](http://www.pastordenning.com).