

LEADER AS PATIENT- Part 1

How God uses community building to heal us

Psalm 50:7-15, Isaiah 64:4, Luke 12:35-38, and Acts 17:22-25

Discussion Questions

1. What characteristics of God do you see in these passages?
2. What is God's complaint in Psalm 50?
3. What do these Scriptures say God wants from his followers?
4. What does each passage have in common? What surprising picture of God emerges?

Job Description vs. Doctor's Prescription

Community matters. But it's not something we do for God (or ourselves) – it's something God does for us!

	Job Description	Doctor's Prescription
Goal	Receiving payment in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval or respect from others/God • Giving God what we "owe" or "should" • Finding a community where we feel comfortable or have our needs met 	Receiving health, the rewards associated with trusting God and loving people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing from selfishness and self-focus • Healing from fear of risk and vulnerability
Qualifications	"Well-qualified" builders only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible knowledge, expertise, or experience • Extroverts & confident people have the most to offer • You need to know exactly what to do before contributing 	Everyone is a builder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has gifts to offer God's community • All you need is evidence of God's work in your life
Requirements	Job requirements: What leaders do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duties and commitments • Focus is on tasks and time spent on the community • Responsibility 	Prescription for health: What leaders need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and partnership • Focus is on willingness to grow as a disciple • Accountability
Attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community is something God gives me for me. • I must get enough out of this community before I contribute • How are my needs being met? What is worth doing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God calls me to love and build this community • I grow the most when I invest in the people around me • How is God serving me in my role here? How am I being healed?
Motivation	Obligation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I lead because I feel like I had to say "yes" • I invite others because it's expected • "Why did you miss IV this week?" • "You should really go to this retreat; it will be good for you" 	Calling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I lead out of a sense of calling to be a leader • I invite others because Jesus invites • "I missed you at IV this week! How are you doing?" • "A bunch of us are going to this retreat, will you come too?"
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride • Resentment • Burnout • Loneliness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gratitude • Humility • Lasting motivation • Committed community
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 11 – Self-serving approach to the church • Mark 6:30-44 – Jesus has compassion on the crowd • Acts 5 – Ananias and Sapphira treat the community selfishly & deceptively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 12 – Other-serving approach to the church • Mark 6:30-44 – disciples sending the crowd away • Acts 4 – whole church together in serving, worshipping, giving, and sharing

Discussion Questions

1. What sticks out to you about these two mindsets?

2. Where have you (or have you seen) people operating in the first mindset?

3. What does that tend to do to them? To their community?

Application

Reflect on the list again in God's presence. Identify one way God is inviting you to move from 'Job Description' to 'Doctor Prescription' this week.