

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 167)

LESSON 41

“I Have Finished My Course”

Hook	1 and 2 Timothy and Titus portray Paul as speaking tenderly to some of his closest friends. The thing is, the probably didn't write them. But it turns out understanding that historical point helps make sense of the New Testament.
Manual Goal	To encourage class members to learn and teach true doctrine and be righteous examples for others.
EGD Goal	To cultivate the traits of righteous leadership and conduct ourselves in such a way that we will be able to look back on a life well and richly lived, having ourselves valiantly “finished the race.”

Updated my PayPal information, so it now correctly has us as a religious non-profit and I added our EIN. Still working on 501c3 status! That should be in effect for this year's donations.

Lesson 41

I. Sunday School

- a. First, how to read the “Pastoral Letters”. 1 Timothy and Titus are closely related, and then 2 Timothy is its own thing.
- b. Two minute take home
 - i. How should we live as saints and leaders?
 - ii. What do we make of the role of women in the New Testament?
 - iii. The end of the race: (The idea of “I have struggled in the noble struggle/contest” fits life MUCH better than violent language).
- c. Reading Commentary
- d. Lesson
 - i. 1 Timothy and women: This has to be a “challenge the scriptures” moment (How can we talk about this book at Church?)
 - ii. What makes a good leader?
 - iii. The end of the race: How do we feel about death? Let's imagine being at the end of our lives. Who is with you? What would you be most proud of? What would you regret? What can you do now to make that moment what you hope it will be?
 - iv. How do we “fight the good fight”? (PERMA, who is on your team, being a team member, taking time to restore perspective, to remember what matters most. How do we spend our time? How do we minimize regret? How do we learn from it? How do we truly live before death?)

- v. Fun exercise!! In Sunday School: What would be your advice? What would you share? "Choose life"
- vi. Confirmation bias "Itching ears heaping themselves up teachers to suit their own desires" (2 Tim. 4:3)
- vii. Conclusion

II. Scripture Study

- a. Authorship of and relationship between the Pastorals
- b. Women in early Christianity
 - i. Ministry of Jesus: (Luke 8:1-3) Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him,² as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,³ and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.
 - ii. ⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. (Mark 15: 40-41)
 - iii. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. (Mark 16:1)
 - iv. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "[Stop embracing me*], because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20:17-18) *My correction from the Greek; the NRSV says "do not hold on to me"
 - v. Women should wear veils when prophesying and praying (1 Cor 11, presupposes women prophesy and pray)
 - vi. Phoebe is a deacon and Junia is an apostle (Rom 16)
 - vii. Prisca and Aquila have a house Church
 - viii. By the second century you (only male) bishops, deacons, elders etc.
- c. Ecclesiology (church structure)
- d. Book Recommendation: Introducing the New Testament by Mark Powell

III. Study Notes

- a. What makes a good leader?
- b. "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10) look at the Greek

List of traits emphasized in the Pastorals:

Be/Seek/Do	Avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Love from a pure heart ✓ pray for all people ✓ self-control ✓ to be above reproach ✓ sober ✓ hospitable ✓ respectable ✓ a good teacher ✓ gentleness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote speculation ▪ have vain discussions ▪ be angry or quarrel ▪ greed ▪ drunkenness ▪ violence

I got that far when I found these (From the ESV Study Bible):

Godliness	
2:2	"a quiet and peaceful life, godly and dignified in every way"
2:9-10	dress in a way that is appropriate for "women who profess godliness"
3:16	"Great . . . is the mystery of godliness"
4:7	"train yourself for godliness"
4:8	"godliness is of value in every way"
5:4	"to show godliness to their own household"
6:3	"the teaching that accords with godliness"
6:5	"imagining that godliness is a means of gain"
6:6	"great gain in godliness with contentment"
6:11	"Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness"

Qualifications for Elders in 1 Timothy and Titus

1 Timothy	
3:2	above reproach
3:2	husband of one wife
3:2	sober-minded
3:2	self-controlled
3:2	respectable
3:2	hospitable
3:2	able to teach
3:3	not a drunkard
3:3	not violent but gentle
3:3	not quarrelsome
3:3	not a lover of money
3:4-5	manage his own household well, care for God's church
3:4	keeping his children submissive
3:6	not a recent convert
3:7	well thought of by outsiders
—	—

Titus	
1:6, 7	above reproach
1:6	husband of one wife
1:8	disciplined
1:8	self-controlled
—	—
1:8	hospitable
1:9	able to give instruction
1:7	not . . . a drunkard
1:7	not . . . violent
1:7	not be arrogant or quick-tempered
1:7	not . . . greedy for gain
1:7	God's steward
1:6	children are believers (or "faithful"), not insubordinate
—	—
—	—
1:8	a lover of good; upright, holy

Qualifications for Deacons

3:8	dignified
3:8	not double-tongued
3:8	not addicted to much wine
3:8	not greedy for dishonest gain
3:9	clear conscience
3:10	tested
3:10	blameless
3:12	husband of one wife
3:12	managing children and household well

I would add the characterization from D&C 121:34-46:

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson —

36 That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

37 That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

38 Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints, and to fight against God.

39 We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion.

40 Hence many are called, but few are chosen.

41 No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;

42 By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile —

43 Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom thou hast reprov'd, lest he esteem thee to be his enemy;

44 That he may know that thy faithfulness is stronger than the cords of death.

45 Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.

46 The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever.

Quotes from TED talks:

Simon Sinek:

https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action/transcript

As it turns out, all the great and inspiring leaders and organizations in the world -- whether it's Apple or Martin Luther King or the Wright brothers -- they all think, act and communicate the exact same way. And it's the complete opposite to everyone else. All I did was codify it, and it's probably the world's simplest idea. I call it the golden circle.

Why? How? What? This little idea explains why some organizations and some leaders are able to inspire where others aren't. (Start with why, then how, then what)

Why: What's your purpose? What's your cause? What's your belief? Why does your organization exist? Why do you get out of bed in the morning? And why should anyone care? ...But the inspired leaders and the inspired organizations -- regardless of their size, regardless of their industry -- all **think, act and communicate from the inside out**. ... if you talk about what you believe, you will attract those who believe what you believe....People who believed what [Martin Luther King] believed took his cause, and they made it their own, and they told people. And some of those people created structures to get the word out to even more people. And lo and behold, 250,000 people showed up on the right day at the right time to hear him speak. How many of them showed up for him? Zero. They showed up for themselves.

Fields Wicker-Miurin:

https://www.ted.com/talks/fields_wicker_miurin_learning_from_leadership_s_missing_manual/transcript

[Leaders] have drive, passion, commitment. They've gone away from what they did before, and they've gone to something they didn't know. They've tried to connect worlds they didn't know existed before. They've built bridges, and they've walked across them. They have a sense of the great arc of time and their tiny place in it. They know people have come before them and will follow them. And they know that they're part of a whole, that they depend on other people. It's not about them, they know that, but it has to start with them. And they have humility. It just happens.

Roselinde Torres:

https://www.ted.com/talks/roselinde_torres_what_it_takes_to_be_a_great_leader

I distilled the characteristics of leaders who are thriving and what they do differently, and then I also distilled the preparation practices that enable people to grow to their potential.

Great leaders are not head-down. They see around corners, shaping their future, not just reacting to it. Great leaders understand that having a more diverse network is a source of pattern identification at greater levels and also of solutions, because you have people that are thinking differently than you are. Great leaders dare to be different. They don't just talk about risk-taking, they actually do it. And one of the leaders shared with me the fact that the most impactful development comes when you are able to build the emotional stamina to withstand people telling you that your new idea is naïve or reckless or just plain stupid.

Tim Harford: https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_harford/transcript

the symptoms of the [God] complex are, no matter how complicated the problem, you have an absolutely overwhelming belief that you are infallibly right in your solution... I'm going to keep banging on about trial and error and why we should abandon the God complex. Because it's so hard to admit our own fallibility. It's so uncomfortable. .. it feels so much better to stand there and say, "Here in my own little world, I am a god, I understand everything. I do not want to have my opinions challenged. I do not want to have my conclusions tested." It feels so much more comfortable simply to lay down the law. ..[We need to make mistakes in the right direction] t is very difficult to make good mistakes."

Drew Dudley: https://www.ted.com/talks/drew_dudley_everyday_leadership/transcript

that was such an eye-opening, transformative moment for me to think that maybe the biggest impact I'd ever had on anyone's life, a moment that had a woman walk up to a stranger four years later and say, "You've been an incredibly important person in my life," was a moment that I didn't even remember. How many of you guys have a ...moment where someone said something or did something that you feel fundamentally made your life better? All right. How many of you have told that person they did it? See, why not? We celebrate birthdays, where all you have to do is not die for 365 days .. and yet we let people who have made our lives better walk around without knowing it. And every single one of you, every single one of you has been the catalyst for [such] a ...moment. You have made someone's life better by something that you said or that you did, and if you think you haven't...You're just one of the people who hasn't been told....**if you change one person's understanding of it, one person's understanding of what they're capable of, one person's understanding of how much people care about them, one person's understanding of how powerful an agent for change they can be in this world, you've changed the whole thing.** And if we can understand leadership like that, I think if we can redefine leadership like that, I think we can change everything.

Resources

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2012/10/of-regrets-and-resolutions?lang=eng>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/03/top-5-regrets-of-the-dying_n_3640593.html

<http://mormonsundayschool.org/109-1-job-ot-lesson-32-core/>
<http://mormonsundayschool.org/109-2-job-ot-lesson-32-study-notes/>
<http://mormonsundayschool.org/104-1-wicked-and-righteous-leaders-ot-lesson-27-core/>
<http://mormonsundayschool.org/104-2-wicked-and-righteous-leaders-ot-lesson-27-study-notes/>
https://www.ted.com/playlists/140/how_leaders_inspire

Introducing NT resources: <http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/introducing-the-new-testament/264690/esources/chapters/131>