



RIGHT TITLE ... WRONG KINGDOM

40 minutes

CHRIS BROWN

Co-Senior Pastor and Teaching Pastor, North Coast Church

- North Coast Church is the Evangelical Free denomination's largest church with 9,000+ attendees, 25 services and multiple campuses.
- One of four Senior Pastors in North Coast's innovative co-leadership system, his teaching and leadership have facilitated North Coast to grow both larger and younger.
- Passionate to develop communication gifts in young leaders, he serves as Adjunct Preaching Professor at Bethel College and was formerly Campus Pastor at Azusa Pacific University.

I. Saul and Goliath

- A. For more than a month, Saul was being called out. He was supposed to be the biggest and the best, but he knew he didn't have what it took.
- B. After 40 days, any neck—even a shepherd boy's—was better than his.
- C. After David defeated Goliath, Saul immediately hired him and David was wildly successful.
- D. It started like every leader's dream but became a nightmare.
- E. Saul could have worked with David, but instead he was threatened by him.
- F. Saul could not celebrate the achievements of others when they started to overshadow him.
- G. Saul made the kingdom about him, the same way some pastors can make their church about them.

II. Pharaoh and Joseph

- A. When Pharaoh couldn't sleep, they brought Joseph to interpret his dreams.
- B. Joseph had long since lost his coat of many colors, but he had found character.
- C. When Joseph was successful, Pharaoh put him on his team.
- D. Pharaoh understood what Saul didn't.

III. Jesus and His Disciples

- A. Jesus told his disciples they were going to Jerusalem, where there were those who wanted to kill him. On the way, the disciples were arguing about which one of them was the greatest.
- B. There's nothing wrong with desire for more, but we have to keep in mind whose kingdom this is.
- C. Never get caught up in the great things of leadership if it takes you away from the God things of leadership.
- D. The first must be last. It's not about greatness; it's about serving others.

- E. James and John asked Jesus to be first and second, and other disciples became indignant.
- F. Jesus said that some leaders lord their leadership over their people, but instead, those who would be great must be servants.

IV. Spiritual Leadership

- A. It's great to have great staff, but the moment they start infringing on the leader's title, they usually have to go. We say we raise someone to a point where they have to leave, but actually they're being kicked out, because there's only one stage.
- B. In spiritual leadership, you serve your staff and make them better.
- C. Insecure leaders have to have the title and position, but secure leaders will pick up a towel and wash the feet of their staff.
- D. We have to call sin sin; this style of leadership hits our pride and ego.
- E. At North Coast Church, they have four senior pastors. It's not easy, yet they don't care who's teaching the message as long as the message is being taught.
- F. Create room for others to lead.

- G. This is not for every leader, only those who want to be great.
- H. Shared leadership makes a healthier leader and a healthier organization.
 - 1. 50 years ago, to have a church of 500 was almost unheard of.
 - 2. Now we have large, personality-driven churches, which creates succession issues.
- I. Shared leadership may seem incompatible with a particular culture, but our calling has to trump our culture.
- J. God didn't call you to be the senior pastor but to be the servant of everyone.

V. Three Questions

- A. Do you have room in your chariot for a David or Joseph?
- B. When forced to choose, do you expand God's kingdom or your reputation?
- C. What difference is the Holy Spirit making in the way you currently lead?

PROCESS QUESTIONS

45 minutes

- We have provided the following questions for you to use as discussion starters with your team. (If you're working through this tool on your own, you can use them for reflection and journaling.) Our hope is these questions serve God's purposes in growing you and your team.
- Suggested discussion times are indicated, but feel free to spend the time however you feel led, being sensitive to God's promptings and focusing on what you think is most important for you and your team to glean from the message.
- If your team has more than eight people, we suggest dividing into groups of four to seven people so everyone has an opportunity to participate.



1. Chris ended his message with three questions to help you reflect on your own leadership. Continue that reflection now by noting your thoughts below. When everyone is ready, tell each other one or two key takeaways from your reflection.

- Do you have room in your chariot for a David or Joseph?
- When forced to choose, do you expand God's kingdom or your reputation?
- What difference is the Holy Spirit making in the way you currently lead? If a non-believer with your same skillset and gifts had your job, would it look any different?

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2. Chris challenged churches and organizations to consider a shared leadership model. Whether or not your team can make that decision for your organization, talk about your reactions to the concept of shared leadership.

- What would be the challenges of a shared leadership model in your team, ministry or organization?
- What would be the strengths of a shared leadership model in your team, ministry or organization?



3. Regardless of your organization's formal leadership structure, leadership can be shared. Brainstorm some ways that your team could apply what you heard. Is there an achievement of someone on your team that you can celebrate? Is there a "young eagle" who you could invite into greater leadership?

When you finish brainstorming, review your ideas and decide which one you can implement over the next month. What would be the first step to make it happen? Decide who will take that step and when.