



## PART 4

# EPILOGUE

## Chapter Twelve

# THE MEASURE OF A LEADER'S SUCCESS

## THE TEAM HE BUILT

What we have in the closing paragraph of [2 Timothy](#) is an abbreviated sample of the network of people whom Paul depended on in his ministry. Here we are reminded that none of us who would serve Christ can do so alone. We are not islands. Although leadership is sometimes a lonely calling, the true leader must never be isolated from people. Just as people need leaders, leaders need people. Leadership itself is by definition a process of team building. Moses needed Aaron and Hur to hold up his hands ([Exodus 17:12](#)).

[Exodus 17:12 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>12</sup>“But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.”

When David was an outcast, he gathered men who were distressed, in debt, and discontented, and he made an army of them ([1 Samuel 22:2](#)).

[1 Samuel 22:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>“Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him.”

Even Jesus’ earthly ministry was devoted to training a few individuals, and at the hour of His soul’s deepest agony, He asked three of them to watch with Him in prayer ([Matthew 26:37–41](#)).

[Matthew 26:37-41 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>37</sup>“And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

<sup>38</sup>Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”

<sup>39</sup>And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but



as You will.”

<sup>40</sup> And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour?”

<sup>41</sup> “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

The more we cultivate people to depend on, and the more we learn to delegate, the better we can lead. The more a leader invests his life in people, the more effective that person will be in the Lord’s service.

The modern business world illustrates how vital networking is to success in leadership. The world of commerce depends on sophisticated networks of suppliers, customers, government agencies, stockholders, employees, and management. Scripture compares the church to a body to make this very point ([1 Corinthians 12:14–27](#)).

**1 Corinthians 12:14-27 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> “For the body is not one member, but many.

<sup>15</sup> If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

<sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

<sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

<sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body be?

<sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

<sup>23</sup> and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,

<sup>24</sup> whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,

<sup>25</sup> so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another.

<sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”

The human body is perhaps the most graphic visual demonstration of networking as we live and move in an incredible network of organs, muscles, tissue, blood, and bones that all function in perfect harmony.

Paul had built a network of people around him. He had a large and effective team. He had many people on whom he depended, people to whom he delegated responsibility, and people in whom he trusted. Among them were some who were constantly faithful, some who proved unfaithful; some who remained friends no matter what, some who turned away from Paul in trials; some who became longtime partners, some who were short-term accomplices; some who were consistent, some who were inconsistent; some who were always ready to volunteer, and some who were never ready to volunteer. They were all a part of his life, and all were influenced in one way or another by his leadership.

As Paul faced the ax that would cut off his head and knew that his life was about to end, those people were on his mind. Remember, he wrote his two epistles to Timothy in order to pass the mantle of church leadership to his young protégé. And one vital step in that process required him to inform Timothy about what was going on with all the people on the team. In this farewell paragraph, he sounds like an old coach turning over the team to a young coach. The young coach needs to know where everyone plays so he can step in as the team leader with a minimum of trauma and difficulty. Paul wrote:

**2 Timothy 4:9-22 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup>“Make every effort to come to me soon;**

**<sup>10</sup>for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.**

**<sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.**

**<sup>12</sup>But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.**

**<sup>13</sup>When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.**

**<sup>14</sup>Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.**

**<sup>15</sup>Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.**

**<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.**

**<sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.**

**<sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**<sup>19</sup>Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.**

**<sup>20</sup>Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.**

**<sup>21</sup>Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren.**

**<sup>22</sup>The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.”**

Some of the people Paul mentioned in that passage were close friends whom he wanted with him in his last days, both for mutual comfort and to assist him in the ministry that would carry on even after his death. Those included Timothy, Luke, and Mark. Some were partners in ministry



whom he mentioned simply to greet and share his love and his concern because they, too, were lifelong friends. Those included Priscilla, Aquila, and the family of Onesiphorus.

Some whom he mentioned he had already said goodbye to and sent to serve in strategic places to keep the work strong. Those included Crescens, Titus, Tychicus, Erastus, and Trophimus. Some whom he mentioned were sending their own greetings to Timothy. Those were faithful believers living in Rome, including Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and others. He also mentioned some because of the intense grief they brought him. Those included Demas, Alexander, and several anonymous deserters.

People, not programs, were on Paul's mind as he came to the end of his life. People are the most vital and valuable resource any leader can cultivate. Paul had the happy privilege of living a life that fulfilled the words of [1 Samuel 10:26](#), which says this about Saul: **“Valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.”**

[1 Samuel 10:26 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>26</sup>“Saul also went to his house at Gibeah; and the **valiant men whose hearts God had touched went with him.**”

Paul had a band of men and women whose hearts God had touched too. He wanted Timothy to know who they were, where they were, and what they were doing as Timothy took over the reins of leadership. Notice whom he mentioned, beginning with Timothy himself.

### *Timothy*

Paul longed to see Timothy face-to-face one more time. In verse 9 he wrote, “Be diligent to come to me quickly.” Paul regarded Timothy as **“a true son in the faith” and “a beloved son”** ([1 Timothy 1:2](#); [2 Timothy 1:2](#)).

[1 Timothy 1:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>“To Timothy, *my true child in the faith*: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

[2 Timothy 1:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>“To Timothy, *my beloved son*: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Timothy was in a sense a reproduction of the apostle, and that is why he was to be the heir of Paul's mantle of leadership.

In writing to the Corinthians about his tremendous concern for them, Paul had said to them in [1 Corinthians 4:17 NASB](#), **“For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.”** He regarded Timothy as a clone of himself, a carbon copy of his leadership. He trusted Timothy's teaching and knew the young pastor would teach people just what he himself had taught.