

Leading Second Podcast

Episode Guide



Leading Second Podcast - Season 7 Episode 178

Inside the Second Chair with Temi Pope

This week Larry Brey, Associate Pastor at Elevation Church, sits down with Temi Pope, Chief of Staff at Union Church in Maryland. They have a powerful conversation on calling vs career, facing overwhelming seasons in ministry, and staying in alignment with your pastors. This episode is part of our series, Inside the Second Chair, where we are diving in with different leaders to discover the secret sauce that keeps leaders focused and in the game.

Introduction of Temi Pope

MINISTRY BACKGROUND

- Has been a part of Union Church for over 11 years.
- Has been full time in ministry for 6 years.
- Started by serving in general areas at the church.
- Became the lead over the Hospitality team.

Let's Jump In

WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU TO STEP INTO THIS ROLE?

- Temi explains that it was hard at first to go from the corporate world to ministry.
 - But ministry is great because it embodies who God is.
- She tells people that she never asked for a promotion. That she never desired it.
 - Her goal was to do what was in her hand to the best of her ability.
 - She could have coasted in other times but that's not how God calls us to live.
 - He calls us from glory to glory to glory.
 - When you're coasting you start to rely less on God.

I like being in a little over my head because I have to go back to the Father more often.

- Temi Pope

HOW RARE IS IT IN MINISTRY TODAY FOR SOMEONE TO NOT BE SEEKING A PROMOTION?

- These days, we've made ministry attractive.
 - For people now this is seen as a career.
 - When you're in a career you ask, "How high can I go? What's the next objective/goal/promotion?"
 - Seeking promotion with the right heart isn't bad.
 - But it is dangerous when you're looking to promotion for a platform or influence.
 - There's a tension in ministry.
 - We're supposed to be content with what we have yet driven towards what's next.
 - It's a heart issue.
 - When you're focused more on how to help grow the kingdom, your influence grows.
 - Dominate what God has put in your hand.
 - With more comes more battles, more attack, a bigger target on your back from the enemy, and more souls you're responsible for.

If you focus solely on what God has put in your hand, He will add everything else you desire.

- Temi Pope

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO EVERY MORNING?

- Temi reads the YouVersion Bible app verse of the day and then meditates on it.
 - She starts the day off knowing she fed her soul.
 - This usually leads to God talking to her about that verse somewhere in the day.

WHAT IS A KEY VERSE OF SCRIPTURE THAT IS CURRENTLY SPEAKING TO YOU, IN REGARDS TO YOUR JOURNEY AS A LEADER?

- John 15:5 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
 - It's one of Temi's favorite verses.
 - It always comes in at the right time.
 - Usually when she's in over her head.
 - It's a reminder to get back to the source.
 - What leaders am I developing if I'm not being developed by God? What am I stewarding if I'm not being stewarded by God?
 - Why would you want to do anything apart from Him?
 - It's like the cheat code of knowing how to speak to people.

What leaders am I developing if I'm not being developed by God? What am I stewarding if I'm not being stewarded by God?

- Temi Pope

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO YOU TO BE IN OVER YOUR HEAD?

- Temi says the first indication for her is that the joy is sucked out of ministry.
 - When doing the work of the ministry becomes burdensome or frustrating, it's a check in the spirit that you are getting further and further away from the source.
 - That means you're trying to do things in your own strength.
 - You've abandon the person that fuels you - God.
 - When problems are harder to solve.
 - You look back and can see times when the burden was greater than it needed to be.
 - The burden was with people, not necessarily with systems.
 - The reason why is because we're human.
 - The enemy uses people.
 - People are the margin of error.
 - The burden that can linger longest is when you think you need to rescue people.
 - Your job isn't to change someone; it is to be a part of the process.
 - We're dealing with a new generation of people.
 - There are people that are in it for the wrong reasons.
 - People have experienced traumatic events in their lives that they built their personality around.
 - We all step into ministry not whole. There's a lot of parts of us that are unhealthy and they start to rear up at the wrong time because the enemy knows when to use them.
 - What am I trying to control that God said, "That's not in your job description."?

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR PASTOR OR LEADER WOULD SAY ABOUT YOU?

- Temi hopes it is that she honored God and led a life of integrity.
 - If you do those then you are doing your job.
 - Everything she brought to the table was first a sacrifice unto God.

IF YOU COULD STOP DOING SOMETHING TODAY (OR HAND IT OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE) WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Temi is in a season where everything she needs to do she wants to do.
 - But it took a long time to get to this season.
 - There are long seasons where the things you do are what you have to do, not exactly what you want to do.
 - It's a season.
 - If you're faithful with little God will move you to the next thing.
 - In this season, find something that you do love and focus on that.
 - But still steward what you're handed.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS IN LEADING FROM THE SECOND CHAIR?

- First: Be in alignment with God.
 - God is the one who should be putting you in the seats that you're in.
 - Chris Hodges said, "Whatever called you to it should be the only thing that moves you from it."
- Second: Be in alignment with your senior pastors.
 - It's their vision that God has given them and it's your job to help them fulfill that.
 - It starts with one degree of misalignment each day that you don't notice.
 - You don't notice but others do.
 - You start to leak on the people you're leading and they're going to notice.
 - You're leaking because you're out of alignment, not because you don't love God.
 - Luke 6:45 (NKJV) "...For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."
 - Everyone can tell. They're either waiting for you to get right with God or to get off the team.

Dig Deeper

1. What is one aspect you can take from this conversation today and put into practice in your own life?

2. Name one goal you can set for yourself, either professionally or personally, through the knowledge you gained from this conversation.

3. How has your view of leading from the second chair changed after this conversation?

Additional Resources

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