

Leading Second Podcast

Episode Guide



Leading Second Podcast - Season 7 Episode 179

Things Your Pastor Wished You Knew but Can't Say ft. Jabin Chavez

Jabin Chavez, founder and Lead Pastor at City Light Church in Las Vegas, NV, gives us an inside look at the heart of a lead pastor. In this conversation, we discuss the weight of being the lead pastor, different ways his team has focused on running with the vision of the church well, and the alignment of a Second Chair Leader.

From Second to First

SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE OF STARTING AS A SECOND CHAIR LEADER TO TRANSITIONING TO A FIRST CHAIR LEADER.

- Jabin described that there was only so much weight he had to carry in that organization.
 - You don't know what its like for the lead pastor and you can't know and that's ok.
 - You have to learn to give your leader a lot of grace.
 - As a senior pastor, you go in at a different level.
 - I don't expect my team to totally love our church the way I do.
 - But I do need them to give me the grace and have the humility to say, "I don't feel it the way he feels it."
 - There's a trust they have to have in their pastor and there's a grace he has to give them.
 - It's a tension that has to be lived in and managed.

DESCRIBE THE "WEIGHT" OF BEING A FIRST CHAIR LEADER.

- Paul talks about all of his trials in 2 Corinthians 11. He then finishes with:
 - 2 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV) "Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches."
 - Jabin believes that it is a supernatural burden that God puts on a senior leader.
 - Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV) "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account."
 - An unavoidable spiritual gift, that doesn't feel like a gift, that God places on a pastor.
 - Pastors can get controlling because they don't know how to handle the weight and trust God with it.
 - It's a supernatural love for a people and a community.
 - You have to learn how to process the pressure of leading and loving people.

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

- Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

Leading Well In The Second Chair

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOUR TEAM DOES WELL THAT LIGHTENS YOUR LOAD AND SUPPORTS YOU WELL?

- Second Chair Leaders don't say to their pastor, "I don't want to bother you."
 - Lead pastors need to communicate to their team, "You have access to me."
 - There needs to be communication.
 - The team needs to proactively communicate and never assume.
 - The line of communication is constant.

WHAT DOES YOUR TEAM DO WELL TO BRING LIFE TO THE VISION OF THE HOUSE?

- To the First Chair Leaders: Do the things only you can do.
 - You have two hands. You can only put these two hands in two areas of the church. So choose wisely.
 - Pastor can't be at everything.
 - Exodus 18:17-18 (NIV) "Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone."But the team has to be mature enough to say, "this is part of the vision but it might not fit into pastor's hands."
 - Your pastor knows things are valuable but his hands may not be directly in it.
 - Those teams may not get as much access to him as others but they are just as vital to the vision.
 - Not everything that's a part of our vision is a passion point for our pastor.

HOW WOULD YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR TEAM CARRY THEMSELVES WHEN THE LOAD IS HEAVY?

- It's very important to understand that everything in ministry is seasonal.
 - Team members need to be responsible and honest with their leader about the weight that they're carrying.
 - You can lead tired but you can't lead empty.
 - And you can't lead tired forever.
 - Be responsible to plan out vacations and rest.
 - It isn't the first chair's responsibility to keep track of your times off.

Alignment

HOW CAN SECOND CHAIR LEADERS CREATE ALIGNMENT?

- You have to have a good heart posture.
 - You have to be honest of the vision of the church and ask, "Have I embraced it?"

God calls you to a house. God calls you to a man and a woman. God calls you to a vision.

- Jabin Chavez

- My frustration with second chair leaders is that they want clear direction from their leader.
 - But you still have to think on your own.
 - Your pastor can teach you *how* to think but they can't teach you *to* think.
 - You can't always wait for perfectly communicated instruction.
 - You have to take a broader vision, think it through, then build it.
 - Nehemiah 4:6 (NKJV) "So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, **for the people had a mind to work.**"
 - CSB "So we rebuilt the wall until the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, **for the people had the will to keep working.**"
 - NCV "So we rebuilt the wall to half its height, because the people were willing to work."
 - Sometimes saying you aren't getting clear vision is an excuse to not think, to not bring ideas.
 - If you are working for a visionary, a lot of times they won't have clear steps to get from a to z.
 - Exodus 25:8 (NKJV) "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."
 - God did not command Moses to build it, he commanded the people.
 - God gave Moses the blueprint.
 - The team has to come in with ideas and you can't get hurt when the pastor doesn't go with it entirely.
 - You have to deal with the disappointment or frustration of the no.
 - It's a moment to learn, submit, and honor. A moment God is increasing your endurance and patience.
 - Second Chair Leaders that have a mind to build are going to be invaluable to their pastor.

Dig Deeper

1. How does Jabin's explanation of a lead pastor's "weight" in ministry affect how you see your pastor and the burdens they carry?

2. Jabin talked about three areas for leading well in the Second Chair: communication with your pastor, carrying the vision of the house in your area, and taking rest. Which one of these do you feel you can begin improving on today to help make your area of ministry and your pastor's vision stronger?

3. When you are working to fulfill your pastor's vision, do you feel that you have to seek clear direction from your pastor or do you bring ideas to the table without being directly assisted? How do you feel you can better serve your pastor in this area?

Additional Resources

Connect With Us:

Want more from Leading Second? Check out www.leadingsecond.com, [Connect With Us](#), and follow us on [Instagram](#).

Leading Second Coaching Groups:

Leading Second Coaching Groups are our environment to equip you to walk in your God-given calling and bring excellence to your unique role. Through this 12-24 month coaching journey, our commitment is to walk alongside you and help you to grow in your leadership in the second chair. Our heart is to see you begin to thrive in your leadership and to give you the tools to maintain strength as you lead.

Applications for the 2024 round of Coaching Groups are officially open.

Spots are limited. Apply today at leadingsecond.com/coaching-groups