



Leading Second Podcast - Season 8 Episode 203

Carrying the Weight of Ministry for Your Pastors ft. Jason Parrish

In ministry, each seat of leadership carries its own unique weight and perspective. Brandon, along with Dillon and Leydanis Ritchie (CoastLife Church, Venice, FL) and Jason Parrish (The Well, Salt Lake City, UT) explore the dynamics between first and second chair leaders in ministry. Just as a driver must be aware of multiple factors beyond what a passenger sees, those in the first chair often carry responsibilities and insights that may not be immediately apparent to those in the second chair.

LESSONS FROM THE SECOND CHAIR.

- As much as you think you know, you don't know everything that the first chair leader knows.
 - There are certain things that a first chair leader is dealing with/sees/is experiencing that the second chair leader doesn't know.
- The first chair leader may be working to protect the second chair leader.
 - It can seem like they are withholding information.
 - It's actually a withholding of something that may be detrimental.

THE WEIGHT OF THE FIRST CHAIR.

- The weight causes a leader to say, do, and perceive things to make the right maneuvers for the church.
- There are so many more details that a first chair leader has to look at before making a decision.
 - There can be tension/frustration because the second chair sees what they can see but the first chair has to look at other things before they can make a decision.

HOW TO BE A SUPPORTIVE SECOND CHAIR.

- Never critique what you don't know in the moment.
 - Don't critique it on Sunday.
 - It becomes more dangerous because you are requiring the attention needed to make decisions, rather than the situation.
 - Save the analysis for when there is time to discuss it.

VALUE.

- Most second chair leaders were not in place when the church was founded.
 - There becomes a challenge of not always seeing or understanding the value of what's there.
- Founders and those that come later are both necessary.
 - Most will not understand what the pastor's perspective was at the beginning.
 - A lot of first chair leaders carry a great situational awareness.
 - Pastors make intuitive and situational decisions.
 - This comes from being there at the beginning and seeing it from that perspective.
 - A lot of second chair leaders are great at strategic awareness.
 - They have had more time to look at the ministry from the outside in.
 - It is valuable to learn to trust each other.
- Bitterness and discouragement.
 - Give your pastor the benefit of the doubt that they are not making an ego-driven or selfish decision.
 - At the end of the day, there is something that they understand that they may not share at that moment.

LOVE YOUR PASTORS. LOVE WHAT THEY LOVE.

- Do you love your pastors and the church?
 - If you love them, that will cover up differences and offenses.
- Love what your pastor loves.
 - Love it as they love it because you are entrusted with it.
 - You should see that entrustment as great trust and confidence in your skills.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

- You have to go to Jesus on everything.
 - Don't remove Him from the equation.
 - Psalm 51:10 (ESV) "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Give me the rightness of spirit so that I can approach every situation I find myself in with clarity, with confidence, with kindness, with goodness, and with the assumption that my leader is for me, not against me.

- Jason Parrish

Dig Deeper

1. What are some practical ways to support your lead pastor without becoming a 'backseat driver' in ministry decisions?

2. In what ways can you demonstrate that you 'love the church' beyond just fulfilling your job responsibilities?

3. How can you cultivate a 'right spirit' (as mentioned from Psalms) when facing challenges or disagreements with your church leadership?

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+:

Leading Second+ is a video resource platform designed to equip churches everywhere to raise-up uncommon leaders. Through new online courses, leadership labs, live events (and more), we dive deep into second-chair leadership and give you a framework for what Leading Second can look like in your world. Learn more and sign up at leadingsecond.com/plus/.