



Leading Second Podcast - Season 8 Episode 205

Faithful Leadership in Challenging Times - Live from Team Church Canada

This week, we explore the challenges and opportunities of leading in various contexts, including multi-site churches, family leadership transitions, and navigating cultural shifts. Brandon is joined by Tanisha Stromberg (Parallel Church, Okotoks, AB), Bryce Birmingham (Home Church, Calgary, AB), and Isaac Varty (Celebration Church, Edmonton, AB) for a conversation that emphasizes the importance of faithfulness, adaptability, and maintaining strong relationships in leadership roles.

WHAT IS GOD DOING IN THE CHURCH IN CANADA RIGHT NOW?

- Tanisha
 - There is a level of apathy within communities.
 - A feeling of, "Is a relationship with God relevant in my life?"
 - The need is to go out and reach people with the gospel.
 - This is a call up to everyone in the Church.
 - How can you be the light in your community?
 - How are you making relationships with your neighbors?
 - How are you inviting them?
 - Everyone needs to have some skin in the game.
 - Pastors need to keep the vision right in front of people.
 - Bring personal examples of how you are doing this.
 - We are not responsible for whether people accept or reject Christ.
 - We are responsible for presenting the opportunity to them.

We need to be faithful with what God's entrusted to us, not what we want Him to entrust to us.

- Tanisha Stromberg

- Bryce
 - The trust of the Church, leadership, and pastors.
 - The Church has a big vision, but that vision is going to take inseparable unity driven by great faith.
 - There is a challenge to continually stay on track and in the vision by creating inseparable unity in our teams.
- Isaac
 - There is an openness with Gen Z to all things Christianity right now.
 - They are open to the gospel, the church, serving, and loving God.
 - Canada is a high immigration country.
 - Many are familiar with religion from culture, family, and/or tradition.
 - We must remember that people may not realize that a relationship with God is meant to improve everything they do in their lives.
 - It's going to have generational impacts.

STORIES.

- Isaac
 - Their church has transitioned from his parents leading the church to his brother.
 - The dynamic between him and his brother while on staff together can be tricky.
 - Isaac had to ask himself, "Are you ready to submit to him?"
 - He is serving the house and serving his brother's vision.
 - There needs to be a heart check walking into this situation.
 - Some may see it as a disadvantage.
 - He sees their relationship as an advantage to being on the same team.
 - They are always brothers. But that relationship is behind closed doors.
 - In front of the team, his brother is his pastor first.
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- Tanisha
 - She is a location pastor with her husband.
 - There can be a slippery slope of allowing natural distance to create leadership or alignment distance between you and your pastor.
 - You have to fight for alignment.
 - You have to fight to have a heart posture in the right place.
 - The ownership is on you.
 - It's on you to ask the questions if something's off.
 - It's on you to fight to have a relationship with your pastor.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

- Bryce
 - Stay confident in who you are.
 - Walk in the authority God has given to you.
 - You can double the church or you can divide the church.
 - We want to see the church flourish.
 - We want to lead the team towards the large vision that God has for us and not fall into insecurity.
 - You have to have the confidence that God has called you.
- Tanisha
 - We're all called to plant seeds.
 - We're called to be workers in the field.
 - We're not called to be the ones to completely grow the harvest.
 - Be encouraged that the pieces that you're doing, God is going to do good things with them.
 - Just continue to be faithful to that and be confident in what you're doing.
- Isaac
 - Care for people well.
 - We're connected with people.
 - Understand where their heart is at and what their needs are.

Dig Deeper

1. How can we maintain our convictions as Christian leaders while navigating increasingly polarized social and political environments?

2. In what ways can we grow personally and professionally as leaders to keep pace with the growth and changes in our churches?

3. How can we cultivate confidence in our roles as second chair leaders while remaining humble and supportive of our senior leadership?

Additional Resources

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