

EPISODE GUIDE

LEADING SECOND

Episode 227

Heart & Soul: Adding Value to the Vision ft. Brandon Stewart

What does it truly mean to honor the leaders God has placed in our lives? This conversation digs into the heart of that question during Pastor Appreciation Month, and the answer goes much deeper than a card or a kind word. Brandon guides us in how we can lead the charge of honor this month at our churches.

HEART AND SOUL.

1 Samuel 14:6-7 (NIV) "Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, 'Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.' 'Do all that you have in mind,' his armor-bearer said. 'Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.'"

Sometimes the request from pastor feels a little impossible.

The greatest miracle of the story isn't just Jonathan's willingness to be obedient. It's the armor-bearer's response.

CARRYING THE WEIGHT.

Pastors are looking for leaders who carry the weight alongside them.

Many Second Chair Leaders are willing to help, but they are in the Awareness Gap.

Teams stall out while they're waiting on decisions, and leaders miss the fullness of their own calling.

Hebrews 13:17 (NIV) "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."

The greatest posture of honor is that we can take this month as a tribes adding value to the vision that our pastors are leading.

We champion vision that didn't originate with us.

RESPONSES TO OUR PASTOR'S VISION.

From The 360 Degree Leader by Dr. John Maxwell:

1. *Attack It. .*
    - To attack, criticize, undermine, or sabotage your pastor's vision.
    - It is destructive. Not because it's loud, but because it's disguised as honesty.
    - If it tears down, plants seeds of doubt, and/or undermines your pastor's vision, it's an attack. Whether your pastor knows about it or not.
    - We have to take responsibility for how we respond.
2. *Ignore It.*
    - Agreeing in the meeting but then going on with your own way.
    - It doesn't fee like outright rebellion or attacking.
    - The problem is quietly running your own version of the plan instead of championing the vision of the House.
3. *Abandon It.*
    - Too many times leaders reach for the exit door too early before they've done the harder work of trying to achieve alignment.
    - Sometimes the best thing you should do is execute an honoring transition, if needed.
4. *Adapt To It.*
    - Genuinely find a way to align yourself with your pastor's vision.
    - Doing the internal work of actually finding your own conviction within the vision.
    - What would it take for me to believe this is the way?
5. *Champion It.*
    - You've taken the vision from their plan to my plan.
    - This is where you put the vision ahead of your own preference.
    - This is where a Second Chair Leader begins to become a leader the pastor can trust.
    - When we begin to carry it and champion it, we take it on as our identity.

ADDING VALUE.

Adding value means you don't just carry the vision, you make it better.

Championing the vision is the root, but adding value is what grows out of it.

We can honor our pastors by adding value to the vision.

The Challenge:

1. *Public Honor.*
   - Be an architect of honor.
2. *Private Honor.*
   - Communicate specifically, personally, and directly to your pastor what hey mean to you.
   - Don't assume your pastor is encouraged. Don't assume they hear it a lot. don't assume your pastor feels seen.
3. *Costly Honor.*
   - Go above and beyond. Add value to something. Improve something. Go the extra mile. Give financially to something. Take up a new project.

Dig Deeper

1. The armor bearer in 1 Samuel 14 responded to an uncertain and dangerous mission with wholehearted commitment -- what does it look like in your current role to say 'I am with you, heart and soul' when the path forward feels unclear or costly?

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2. Hebrews 13:17 calls us to submit to leaders so that their work will be a joy and not a burden -- honestly assessed, does your presence and engagement make your pastor's work more joyful or more burdensome, and why?

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3. The speaker lists six responses to vision -- attacking, ignoring, abandoning, adapting, championing, and adding value -- which of these responses most honestly describes where you are right now, and what would it take to move toward the highest response?

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Additional Resources

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Goff Companies:

Goff Companies works with churches through the building process. Their team of experts, designers, and pastors walks alongside you to make church facility expansion simple and mission-aligned so leaders can build places that inspire worship, connection, and growth.

Leading Second Camp:

Leading Second Camp is our annual, flagship gathering for leaders who are all-in for their pastor, their team, and the local church. This year, we will be hosting an Executive Strategy Day on February 3rd, 2027, focusing on creating an intimate learning environment for Executive Pastors and executive-level leaders. On February 4th, 2027, we will host a full day of powerful worship, preaching, and ministry for all Second Chair Leaders. Brandon & Lindsay Stewart will be joined by Larry Brey (Elevation Church) and Marcus Mecum (7 Hills Church) in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX for this special time together. To learn more, watch past years' messages, and register your team, visit leadingsecondcamp.com.