

EPISODE GUIDE

LEADING SECOND

Episode 228

Carrying a Decision You Didn't Make ft. Marcus Mecum & Larry Brey

What does it really mean to carry a vision that did not originate with you? Brandon is joined by Marcus Mecum (Seven Hills Church, OH) and Larry Brey (Elevation Church, NC) to dive into what it looks like to pour ourselves into something larger than own ambitions, ideas, and desires.

CARRYING A VISION THAT ISN'T YOURS.

Sometimes when someone is wrestling with carrying someone else's vision, it can come from a shallow vision of their life of looking to get a blessing.

What if we see ourselves as **placeholders** for someone else to walk in God's presence.

We need to make the shift from 'it's their vision' to 'it's my pastor's vision' to 'it's my vision.'

It can be more difficult for some people who come in at different points in the journey where they didn't see the price that was paid by the pastor. It's not their fault.

A test of a second chair is if you want to be a first chair… you probably shouldn't. You don't choose it; it chooses you.

If it's Him, it works. If it's not, it doesn't.

Our job is to be faithful wherever we're at.

THE WEIGHT OF BEING THE VISIONARY.

It's easy to have a vision when you aren't in the first chair.

One of the biggest problems is for someone in one lane to look over in another lane and feel they know what that lane should be doing. They don't understand that there are a hundred lanes the pastor has to look at.

It is easy to be in a seat where you're hearing or watching and you're not considering all the different things your pastor is.

The vision is unique to the person that is in that role because they are responsible for it.

Being the visionary is lonely and highly critiqued.

THE VISION FOR MY DEPARTMENT.

Always start with, "What is my pastor's vision?" Then move to, "What's my vision for it?"

Our pastor's have entrusted us to lead with their voice and values through our personalities and spirit.

The unique personalities that wrote the Canon of Scripture were not written out.

There is a time and a place for you to show up. As long as it's second.

Everyone who starts in leadership should learn the process of the vision first. Then, once it has been embraced and understood, you **earn** the right to bring in ideas.

Those that embrace the process, earn the right to change the process.

LEAD YOURSELF TO CHAMPION THE VISION OF THE HOUSE.

Leaders can be evaluated in three categories:

- Structural: Do they structurally match the level of the top level departments.
- Cultural: They love Jesus be they don't culturally match.
- Spiritual: There is something about the way they see the Scriptures/the Lord.

Everybody has to look at these things in their own lives.

We need to relax and let it go. Just go with it. Do it your pastor's way. And try to make it win.

If it's wrong or doesn't work, you got the learning experience. You also need to show a lot of grace to your pastor.

Never Compromise. Always Submit. Submit means to put our preferences aside. Compromise means to put God's standard aside. Never put God's standard aside.

Our pastor's demand is always our development. There is always something that God is wanting to develop in us that can only come through that demand that is placed on us.

WHY ATTEND LEADING SECOND CAMP?

People don't walk away because they don't care. People walk away because they don't know how to carry it.

How many people in ministry are growing weary because they have no one to carry it with them?

Leading Second is a tribe where people can find common language and co-laborers to give a framework to how to keep going.

It is a safe environment where you are pointed back to the heart of your pastor.

Dig Deeper

1. Marcus describes how second chair leaders often critique decisions without knowing the full weight of variables the first chair is carrying -- in what ways might a fuller understanding of your pastor's pressures change how you respond to decisions you do not fully understand?

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2. Larry says that people do not walk away from ministry because they do not care but because they do not know how to carry the weight -- what rhythms, relationships, or resources are currently helping you carry your calling without forfeiting ground?

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3. The conversation touches on the idea that vision in the second chair should begin with the pastor's vision before layering in your own expression -- how are you currently ensuring that your department or area of responsibility is genuinely extending the house vision rather than quietly replacing it with your own?

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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.

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