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“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman

Today Reference

Psalm 102: 2,3, 6-7

Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call! For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace. I am like a desert owl of the wilderness, like an owl of the waste places. I lie awake; I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop. *ESV emphasis added*



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The TCL E-Leadership Resource Are You Lonely at the Top?

In the last week, I had an opportunity to speak with a pastor who shared with me one feeling that not many people experience. That feeling had to do with being a senior pastor. He reflected that until you reach that position, one really does not know how it feels. While I have not held the position of senior pastor, what he was trying to explain is something most leaders at the top, or near the top feel. I have been the CEO of a small business for 15 years. I can talk all day long about the pressure and responsibilities of business ownership but no one will know how it feels until you are the owner. No one knows what it feels like to meet a pay-roll or to lay-off good people during hard economic times. Everyone thinks the top is a grand place. No one really knows ... unless you have been there.

I believe that our scripture reference today exposes what all of us at the top feels from time to time ... and that is loneliness. How many times during your life at the top does it feel like you are a desert owl? When you look down from your perch, do you feel like a lonely sparrow? I have from time to time ... even recently.

Those of us at or near the top of our organizations need to help and encourage others that are at the top of theirs. By God's grace I have been able to help others even in the midst of loneliness myself. Read the message I received this month. Permission to share granted.

Ron, as I think about the past few months since 'meeting you' on-line, experiencing the leadership assessment and personal coaching as a leader who works with leaders, and those who will, these thoughts come to mind.

For some strange reason, loneliness seems to be a part of leadership. Certainly it has been a part of my experience as leader in a wide variety of situations. Recently, in a time of questioning my role, my value as a church-staff person, of wondering HOW I could be of real help to my new context as Coordinator of Leadership Development, of feeling somehow disconnected from the heart of things in a new congregation, I stumbled one night upon TheChristianLeader.org.

I really expected no or little response to my query, but you responded quickly and allowed me to speak, even pour out my heart. The resulting Personal Assessment was interesting and helpful to me.

The coaching times helped me see my value to our present church situation.

The results are unfolding, to be sure, and there is a level of excitement and joy, even anticipation of more to come, as we mentor leaders to tackle new horizons. It's great to be affirmed in your calling and learn once again that what the Lord Jesus spoke into your life has not changed. 'Feed my sheep, tend my lambs.' He still means to use the gifts He has given, for the good of all.

And it is even a greater JOY to affirm others!

*P. Allison
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Are you lonely as a leader? Sometimes the best thing you can do is to help someone else that is lonely at the top too.