

“I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.” Titus 1:5 NLT

lectio // Titus 1:1-9

When you don't see in YOURSELF, what your mentor sees in you! Paul tells Titus, when Titus might have thought, “Why did Paul leave when there was still work to be done?” Paul calls Titus UP to what he sees in this young man. “You're like a son to me,” and “I left so that you will finish well.” I LEFT you, so that you could COMPLETE the work. Oftentimes a leader will not or cannot perform well (or not at all) while their mentor is still peering over their every decision. There is a time when the protégé has to step up and do the work. LEAVING is a strategy to allow someone to do their best work. I have someone in my life that mentored me, and I can tell you, the hardest work in my life was doing it while he was still watching, observing, even encouraging. I just could not be the best version of everything he had taught me while he was watching. Of course, I was comforted while he was around because if I really blew something up, he would be there to fix it. And, of course, I would always yield to him when we were in a room full of other leaders, he is my mentor and I was always trying to honor him. But, for me to grow and do what I needed to do... he had to be - gone. Not dead, just not hovering! Paul knew that Titus needed to step up and finish the work they had co-opted together. And look at the task he was given, “appoint elders in each town!” Hey, do you want to know if you've “made it” in leadership? Have you given the authority for someone to lead others? If you haven't raised up leaders, you've not completed your work! It's the true test of leadership - reproducing yourself. Of course, all the necessary character qualities must be in place, but in terms of doing the work - your no longer doing it alone. You've not only built a team, you've built a leader of teams!

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Dad,

This is so amazing to find Paul in the act of teaching Titus this critical leadership principle. It is hard enough to rally people, then to collate them into a cohesive team, serving, loving and working together. Ah, but to look for, find, train and appoint (release) them to lead themselves and others - wow, that is leadership. Thank you so much for the lessons on life and leading others. Help me continue to reproduce myself for the Kingdom of God.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root