

Podcast Episode Notes

Season 2 Episode 8 Begin With the End in Mind (Finishing Well)

Dr. Robert Clinton, professor of leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary did a comprehensive study of leaders in the Scriptures. According to his research there are approximately 1000 leaders mentioned by name in the Bible. Of them, only 49 have enough information given about them to ascertain how they finished their life and ministry. The four types of “finishes” include:

- 1) **Those cut off early** – These leaders were taken out of leadership by assassination, killed in battle, prophetically denounced or overthrown. Examples: Abimelech, Samson, Absalom, Josiah, John the Baptist, James
- 2) **Those that finished poorly** – These leaders were going downhill in the latter part of their lives and leadership in terms of their personal relationship with God or their leadership competency. Examples: Gideon, Samson, Eli, Saul, Solomon
- 3) **Those that finished so-so** – These leaders did well but were limited in some areas of their leadership because of sin. They had some negative ramifications surrounding their lives and leadership even though they personally were walking with God. Examples: David, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah
- 4) **Those that finished well** – These leaders were walking with God at the end of their lives. They contributed to God’s purposes at a high level. They fulfilled what God had for them to do. Examples: Abraham, Job, Joseph, Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel, Jesus, Peter, Paul

Dr. Clinton admits the data is not conclusive but the conclusion that can’t be denied is that in the Bible, few leaders finished well. In researching approximately 1300 spiritual leaders from Scripture, church history as well as Christian leaders in modern times, on average, only **one in three finishes well**.

Seven Barriers to Finishing Well

- 1) **Finances** – Examples include Gideon (Judges 8), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)
- 2) **The Abuse of Power** – Example: Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26)
- 3) **Pride** – Examples include David (1 Chronicles 21) and Hezekiah (Isaiah 39)
- 4) **Sexual Misconduct** – Example: David (2 Samuel 11)
- 5) **Family Relationships** – Problems within the family including failure to meet the needs of a leader who is single – Examples: Eli (1 Samuel 2-4), Solomon (1 Kings 11)
- 6) **Plateauing** – Reaching a level of competency through developed skills in which they can perform well in the flesh as opposed to depending on the Holy Spirit – Example: Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18)
- 7) **Untended Emotional Wounds** – leads to emotional breakdowns and to vulnerable places where the enemy can build strongholds

Six Characteristics of Those Who Finish Well: Relationship with God, A Learning Posture, Christ-like Character, Maintains Convictions and Truth, Accomplishes God’s Purposes, Fulfilled Sense of Destiny

For more on this subject, consider signing up for Lionshare’s leadership intensive called [A Leadership Journey](#).