



Shepherding Horses

Understanding God's Plan for Transforming Leaders

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Horses



*Some boast in chariots and
some in horses,
But we will boast in the name of
the LORD, our God.*

Psalms 20:7 (NASV)

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Riding Horses in Colorado



- Independent animals
- Powerful and strong
- Rider must keep them under control
- Extremely useful if the rider and horse work together

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Your Seminary Training



- Pastor (Shepherd)
- Congregation (Flock of Sheep)

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What if...?



- What if you were asked to “Shepherd Horses” in addition to the Sheep?
- How would you do it?

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ALL of Us Are Like Sheep



- Isaiah 53 tells us that we are all like sheep and have gone our own rebellious way
- Jesus, God's Son, became the perfect lamb of sacrifice
- All of us are like dumb sheep and need a Savior and a shepherd

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Most Sheep



- Will follow and respond to the shepherd
- The Pastor (Shepherd) will care for them, guide them, and rescue them constantly

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A Few Horses...



- In every church there are a few leaders that should be compared to horses, rather than sheep
- They are not better, but different
- These are “Leaders in the Workplace”, not necessarily leaders in your church

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Shepherding Horses (A)



Pastors have a dual responsibility of leading their sheep and training their horses.

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Shepherding Horses (A), cont.



- Not a Choice!!!
 - While “shepherding the sheep”, at the same time concurrently, you must “train your horses”

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Shepherding Horses (B)



- A “horse trainer” must do three things
 - 1) Earn the trust of the horse
 - 2) Convince the horse to want to do a new thing
 - 3) Help the horse focus amid distractions

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Shepherding Horses (B), cont.



1) Earn His Trust

- The goal is to make the horse want to do it
- Help the horse to understand that you have his best interest at heart

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Shepherding Horses (B), cont.



2) Convince the horse to want to do a new thing

- Let him think that getting under control of a bridle and saddle is a “good thing”
- Be firm but not cruel
- Allow him room to think for himself
- He wants to be free, but you want him to be a roping horse
- Convince him to want to become a roping horse

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Shepherding Horses (B), cont.



3) Prepare the horse to focus amid distractions

- Ride the horse close to cars
- Take him close to wildlife
- Take him for a ride in a trailer
- Be patient and take plenty of time
- Get the horse to maintain focus

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Training Takes Time



- The horse trainer spends more “one-on-one” time with the horse in 30 days than we may spend individually with a next generation leader in a lifetime

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The Horse is Trained



- When the trainer has earned his trust
- When the horse is “under control”
- When the horse is focused amid distractions

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Shepherding Horses (C)



- God's Word often uses the "horse" as an analogy
 - 1) Self-Sufficient and Discontent
 - 2) Represent a Pagan Marketplace
 - 3) Fearless in Battle
 - 4) Independent Spirit
 - 5) False Hopes
 - 6) Man's Effort vs. God's Provision

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1) Self-Sufficient and Discontent



“Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never again return that way.’ ”

Deuteronomy 17:16 (NASV)

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1) Self-Sufficient and Discontent, cont.



- vs. Dependence on God
 - Horses were a symbol of “strength”
 - Egypt symbolized the past life
 - God wanted Israel to depend on Him
 - The King was not to “take many wives”
 - He was not to accumulate “large amounts of silver and gold”

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1) Self-Sufficient and Discontent, cont.



- Workplace Leaders
 - Like horses depend on their “own strength”
 - Are exposed to the pitfalls of power, lust, and greed
 - Tend to rely on the things of the past life instead of depending on God

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2) Represent a Pagan Marketplace



“He did away with the horses which the kings of Judah had given to the sun...and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.”

2 Kings 23:11-12 (NASV)

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2) Represent a Pagan Marketplace, cont.



- vs. Holy Living
 - Josiah was cleansing the temple
 - The horses had been used in pagan worship
 - Many of your men and women work daily in a pagan marketplace where many of their co-workers do not follow our God

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3) Fearless in Battle



“Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane? Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrible. He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; He goes out to meet the weapons. He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; and he does not turn back from the sword.”

Job 39:19-22

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3) Fearless in Battle, cont.



“The quiver rattles against him, the flashing spear and javelin. With shaking and rage he races over the ground, and he does not stand still at the voice of the trumpet. As often as the trumpet sounds he says, ‘Aha!’ And he scents the battle from afar, and the thunder of the captains and the war cry.”

Job 39:23-25

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3) Fearless in Battle, cont.



- The Horse
 - God gives the horse his strength
 - The horse has great leaping ability
 - He takes pride in his strength
 - They have been trained by years in the workplace and do not show fear

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3) Fearless in Battle, cont.



- The Horse, cont.
 - They do not shy away from battle
 - They thrive on thrill of challenges
 - They too cannot stand still

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4) Independent Spirit



“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.”

Psalms 32:8-9

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4) Independent Spirit, cont.



- vs. Submissive
 - However, we are stubborn
 - He has to put a bit into our mouth to control us
 - That “bit” is the Holy Spirit
 - Any horse can use his strength for good or for harm

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4) Independent Spirit, cont.



- vs. Submissive, cont.
 - God wants to instruct His children
 - The key is the gentle nudge of the knee of the rider, the bridle on the neck, or the bit in the mouth
 - The Holy Spirit nudges us in the same gentle way

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5) False Hopes



“A horse is a false hope for victory; nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength.”

Psalms 33:17

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5) False Hopes, cont.



- vs. Trust in the Lord
 - Every workplace leader must learn the lesson
 - With eyes on the Lord, and being sensitive to His guidance, they can use their strength in concert with Him
 - Going alone, without His direction, they will fail
 - They must humbly come back to Him and learn to depend on and trust Him

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6) Man's Effort (Horses) vs. God's Provision



“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!”

Isaiah 31:1 (NASV)

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A Constant Battle



- In the world, but not of it
- Impacting the secular culture, but not becoming like it
- Understanding our gifts, but not relying on them instead of God
- They are to be used for HIS GLORY alone

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A Daily Dependence



- Submitting our stubborn will
- Allowing ourselves to be broken
- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Depending on His strength, not ours

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“Out of Control”



*“No man repented of his wickedness,
saying, ‘What have I done?’*

*Everyone turned to his course,
like a horse charging into the battle.*

*But MY people do not know
the ordinance of the LORD.”*

Jeremiah 8:6-7

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Your Assignment



- Pastor, Shepherd, Horse Trainer

1) Shepherd these horses

2) Train them to voluntarily submit to the Holy Spirit

Only the Living God can equip you to do this impossible task!

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Question:



- (1) Are you spending most of your time with the sheep, or have you set aside some time for training and equipping the horses?

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Question:



(2) Which of the leaders (horses) in your church have recently been broken (by circumstances allowed by God), and now appear ready for some personalized training?

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Question:

(3) Which leaders in your church appear to “have it all together”, yet are in need of a trainer?

They may be waiting for you to help them go to the next level in their walk with God.



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YOU are a Horse Trainer



- This type of training will take time
- You will have to eliminate some time with the sheep

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Are Your Leaders...



- Self-sufficient or dependent on God?
- Worldly or becoming holy?
- Fearless or relying on the Holy Spirit?
- Independent or under His control?
- “Lone Rangers” or trusting in Him?
- Stubborn or broken and useable?

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One Final Thought



- When you get a few leaders trained, and you allow them to use their gifts and abilities as leaders, then they will help you care for and equip the rest of the sheep, and your schedule will become sensible.

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