



BLP 41. Leadership Crucibles: Loneliness, Weariness, Abandonment and Vision

Mark Carter & Dr. Tracey Jones

In today's episode, Pastor Carter is interviewed by Dr. Tracey Jones on her podcast Tremendous Leadership. Much gratitude to Tracey for the excellent conversation on the demands of leadership and some valuable insight on how to meet them. She shares that leadership is a beautiful thing, but also one of the hardest things you'll ever do. Amen!

The Price of Leadership:

Loneliness. // Being the person who has to make the toughest calls, even when part of a team, is lonely. In the past church merger, Carter had to help people do what they had been avoiding for years, he was easily the bad guy. The suffering that comes from leadership can produce fellowship and greater union with Christ. We have God and the people he's put around us, but there's also a detachment from people in order to do what God wants you to do. Love people, but have enough distance to make a tough call if needed. Our Lord went through everything, and took on every sin, and still had his core disciples. Having peers/friends from different churches to talk to creates an emotional cushion, to give feedback and love that others who are "related to you" (in your organization) can't necessarily. For Fierce Church's lead team, there's a friendship and understanding that we have each other's backs, 'I'm with you heart and soul'. Sometimes being alone is necessary to discern next steps. In Carter's life, God has sometimes removed people so he could more fully rely on Him.

Weariness. // The key to heading off weariness for Carter is vision- listening to other podcasts, team visits to other churches, being exposed to new ideas to be stirred up. It helps to be a giver of vision or help people get around compelling vision, to remind them that God does amazing things. Having a rhythm of rest and replenishment, asking, 'when is it smart for me to take a break, instead of when am I going to die if I don't?'. Keeping a weekly Sabbath where everything is 'shut down'.

Abandonment. // Maintaining focus as a leader takes constant balance. Equipping others to do what Carter's not good, or moderately good at, so he can do his thing. Posting church values and keeping them top of mind language-wise keeps fosters focus. Daily time with God to re-calibrate his thinking and keep him on track. Reading biographies of people who abandoned everything to



make their lives count. Having a reset and cheering-on moment with his wife, raising the stakes in their minds about getting God what God wants, doing His will, giving Jesus the glory right now.

Vision. // Pray and believe God is giving wisdom. Carter lives in tension of the excitement of thinking toward the future and the burden that it's not that way yet, trying to live in the middle. Being able to speak vision over people for whom it doesn't come naturally, used to feel like he was being bothersome, but can help people see God working through them, when they can't see it themselves. God has made us creative, there's also a tension of wanting to create something awesome and glorifying to God, yet not move in a direction he doesn't want, and it takes prayer and stillness to work it out. Exposure to podcasts, authors, people that create a "good disequilibrium", spark a new way of thinking, mess with one's paradigm. "It's good to have a visionary, it's better to have someone with a vision and a team who makes the vision better." - Pastor Carter. One of Fierce's Codes is: Bring it further, make it better. God is speaking to others (on the team), they have part of the vision and if they're not invited into it, they won't share what they're really thinking. Group vision makes it better, there are no sacred cows.

Final leadership tip. // Have phone-a-friend lifelines, people further down the road who are older and wiser to call on the hard days.

Learn more about Dr. Tracey Jones:

- [The Price of Leadership Book](#)
- [Tremendous Leadership: Curated Leadership for the 21st Century](#)
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