

LEADERSHIP TRAINING for MINISTRY

Course number LT101

Guest Instructor: TBA

Class Notes by: Sharen Kreitsch

The largest lecture hall on campus is jammed to capacity today with students and visitors intent on hearing the guest instructor. People have driven in from nearby towns and campuses just to hear this Prof. He's been stirring up a whirlwind of conversation where ever he goes. There seem to be some "regulars" tagging along when he speaks. Not sure what the connection is between him and them, but they seem pretty tight. Maybe his grad assistants.

The teaching today has been intense. I'm taking notes fast and furious when I notice there's a ruckus going on between the Prof and his associates. I'm sitting pretty close to the front, so I can hear what's going on. They want him to send everybody home because it's late and nobody's had anything to eat. Pfft...these guys are just thinking with their stomachs. Can't they see the rest of us really don't give a rip about food. This Prof's WORDS are like food! The best you ever had! We don't want to take out time to eat, we just want to keep eating His words. I think HE gets that, but his friends keep bugging him about food. Give it up, guys.

I almost laugh out loud over what happens next. He tells his assistants to feed everybody attending. That's putting it to them! You guys think everyone here needs food, YOU feed them. Then I realize he's serious. They believe there's a need and he truly expects them to do something about it. I've been hanging on this teacher's every word, but now I have to wonder about him. He's asking the impossible! Nobody who's been in the lecture hall all afternoon can feed this packed out room.

The conversation going on up front now has everyone's full attention. Lots of my classmates are standing up trying to get a better view of what's happening between the instructor and his assistants. Suddenly, the room becomes so silent you can hear a paper hit the floor. We're all magnetized to what's transpiring. His guys are shouting, "You've got to be kidding. All we've got here is enough for a couple little lunches!"

Prof instructs the packed room to take their seats and does this pretty strange thing. He holds the fish tacos up toward the ceiling, divides them into pieces and thanks someone. Not sure who He's talking to at that point, but he sure has our attention.

Before we can figure out what's happening, his guys are passing out fish sandwiches to everyone in the lecture hall!!! Where all that food came from, I can't be sure. What I do know is this...it was the most satisfying lunch I've ever had. Pretty soon everyone's commenting on how full and energized they are. The 12 guys who passed out fish tacos go around collecting leftover food in large glass bowls. They stand around in a group, holding the bowls close to their chests, staring into them with amazement. A great peace and contentment settles in all around the room. Everyone is reluctant to leave class.

Strange day. Food more satisfying than we could ever hope for or image.... enough leftovers to feed a small army. The Prof thanking someone who's not there. Later I was trying to think of some words that could describe the lecture that day. Seemed like the Prof was trying to feed our minds and hearts with something crucially substantial.

I couldn't help but remember the time Prof Jesus said this really weird thing in class, "Taste and see that I am good." This guy is good, really GOOD. We had a taste of it today!

FOR YOUR REFLECTION:

Relative to your life today....

What do you think the Prof is trying to convey?

Why do you suppose The Prof doesn't seem concerned about food?

Why might the grad assistants be concerned about food?

What does the "little lunch (fish taco)" represent?

Who does the "packed out auditorium" represent?

Who do "The Grad Assistants" represent?

What does the "food" represent?

What do the "leftovers" represent?

What is significant about The Grad Assistants holding on to bowls of leftovers when everything is said and done?

What does The Prof take responsibility for?

What does it SEEM like He's expecting the Grad Assistants to take responsibility for in the beginning?

What does The Prof ACTUALLY expect them to take responsibility as things unfold?

Who provided the fish tacos? Where did they come from?

If you were to compare the responsibility of the Prof and the responsibility of the Grad Assistants in an equation, what number would you assign to the Prof and the Assistants? Write a sentence that describes how much God is expecting of you and how much He plans to provide for you.

How does this story connect to your work or ministry life?

What is God expecting of YOU and what will He take responsibility for?

What "little lunch" are you holding (this might be talents, spiritual gifts, abilities, interests, possessions)?

What could happen with your "little lunch" offered in the face of great need? Who would be responsible for your "little lunch" having the ability to "feed a multitude?"

In what way would knowing you only need offer your “little lunch” allow you to feel less stressed and pressured in your life and ministry?

If you were to write out a 1-sentence GUIDING LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE from this story what would it be?

In what ways are you already practicing this in your life?

COACHING SEGMENT:

Name some **ACTION STEPS** you could take in your current life journey to put this principle into motion further.

WHEN will you be putting these actions into practice?

How will you know when you HAVE ACCOMPLISHED them?

How will knowing this principle help you to keep MOVING FORWARD? What about it is encouraging to forward movement?

Would you be willing to take time right now to thank the Father, Son and Spirit for the gift of these truths?!