

A Leaders Greatest Fear

John Ortberg

Message length: 0:42:55

Goal

To identify your Shadow Mission

Message Details

John addresses our need to take a hard look at the shadow side of our church's and personal mission.

Speaker Introduction

JOHN ORTBERG is Senior Pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California. His teaching brings Scripture alive and invariably includes practical applications and warm humor. John's education includes a Master of Divinity degree and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Fuller Seminary. John also served as Teaching Pastor at Willow Creek Community Church. He is the author of numerous books including "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat," "When the Game is Over It All Goes Back in the Box," and most recently "Faith and Doubt."

Message Beginning

BEGINNING: John Ortberg: How many of you involved in leadership here have ever been criticized? Just a show of hands. How many of you work at a church where criticism is a spiritual gift? I'll tell you, one of my favorite definitions of leadership these days, one of my favorite ones, this is from a Harvard guy names Ron Heifetz....

Message End

END: John Ortberg: Too many churches, too many leaders, too many ministries get damaged. Too often the name of Christ is dragged through the mud because somebody was afraid to speak the truth. Don't be that somebody who's afraid. Just tell God in this moment. God, I will speak the truth aloud. I may not do it well. Help me to do it the best that I can. I will do it.

Oh, Heavenly Father, thank you for the church, thank you for giving each of us a mission, for putting us where we are for such a time as this. Protect us Father, from that shadow that is our greatest enemy. We pray as Jesus taught us to pray so long ago, as followers of Him have been praying for many centuries, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Speaker Close

John challenges leaders at the end of the session to identify their shadow mission or commit to talking with someone about their shadow mission or to ask God to heal the guilt and regret of a shadow mission.

- Session ends somberly with John praying

Facilitator Close

NOTE: This message has had high spiritual impact. It would be very important to plan a time of prayer or spiritual direction at the end of the message. Engage the audience at the same energy level as John in his closing prayer. Honor what God may be doing in that moment.

Process Time

- Allow time for quiet reflection following John's challenge and prayer.
- Possibly acknowledge the moment with a personal word.
- Choose 1 or 2 questions to provoke thought or next steps.
 - What can you do today that will take power from that Shadow Mission?
 - What ways of living will keep you close to God's dream for your life and increasingly far from the seduction of the Shadow Mission?
 - What conversations could you have even today that could make things right, even if they haven't been right, inside of you or at your church or in your marriage, for a long time?
 - Is there someone in your community whose life is littered with warning signs and red flags?
 - Are you willing to be a voice of honesty in his or her life? Or are there things that people have been trying to tell you for years that you've chosen not to accept?
 - As you scroll through hard conversations you may have dismissed in the moment, are there patterns you'd rather not see, but in the quiet moments, recognize as true?
 - Is there a shadow you've been unwilling to face?