

CHAPEL LEADERSHIP SERIES TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY - INAUGURAL WEEK



The Heart of a Leader

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1.0 Introduction & Greetings

Greetings on my own behalf & greetings from the President and Faculty of Regent College, Vancouver—

We congratulate you, President Raymond, on this inauguration; we congratulate you, our friends at TWU, at having found this outstanding person to lead you forward as you continue faithful to your vision and calling.

2.0 The Heart of a Leader

It's where it all starts—out of the abundance of this core of the person will come the language, the vision, the leadership style—

So the Proverb goes: “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”

And Jesus takes this up and develops it further—“the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart” (Matthew 15: 18)—or as I memorized it, “out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.”

So what can I say to you today regarding the heart of the leader? I find myself turning to Psalm 61-63, where I myself have gone again and again...to find God as my strong tower in Psalm 61; as my only place of rest in Psalm 62; and as both
the goal
and the source of my heart's deepest longing in Psalm 63—

2.1 A heart that never stops seeking God—

“Earnestly I seek you; / my soul [= person / whole being] thirsts for you, / my body longs for you...”

The “dry and thirsty land” may be—

Intellectual aridity

Physical weariness or distraction

A period when God seems to be withdrawn from me

The desire that is deepened the more I know him...

The Heart of a Leader

- 2.2 A heart that cultivates the grace of remembering the past in order to be confident about the future—

The role of collective & individual memory

Raising our own personal and corporate piles of rocks to commemorate the mighty works of God

It is on the basis of God's wonderful record with us that we can confidently say—

I will glorify you...

I will praise you...

My soul will be satisfied...

- 2.3 A heart that sings in the shadow because it recognizes the wing that casts the shadow ... and clings to the hand that upholds it...

Clings = 'cleaves' (but also: pursues hard...chases after...e.g. KJV

"My soul followeth hard after thee; thy right hand upholdeth me" (cf. John 10))

- 2.4 A heart that is

undaunted by opposition,

& can trust God for vindication,

and so can live in confident expectation that his good success will mean a good result for those who follow his leadership...

"But the king will rejoice in God; / all who swear by God's name will praise him"