

Everyone's a leader 3 - Responsibility

1) Introduction

- Remembrance Sunday
 - ◇ Various opinions about poppies, remembrance day etc
 - ◇ Some say glorification of war, celebration of British colonialism
 - ◆ I disagree, If it was then I would be against it,
 - ◇ Not even about justification of war (though there are criteria for a just/legal war)
 - ◇ It is a recognition/remembrance of those who died in war.
 - ◇ Those lives matter –every one, on every side, on every level
- God doesn't like war
 - ◇ If all followed God's principles there would be no war
 - ◆ If man were reasonable with one another then there would be no need for war
 - ◇ God is working towards an end to all wars (psa 46:9)
 - ◇ Turn their swords into ploughs and spears into pruning shears (isa 2:4)
- But war does exist in this world
 - ◇ That means suffering, death, military and civilian
 - ◇ And that should be recognised/remembered
- In 2014 there was an exhibition of ceramic poppies at tower of London
 - ◇ 888,246 many made in stoke on trent
 - ◇ Each represented a death
 - ◇ 888,246 was just the dead on one side of one war
 - ◇ There are many many millions more
 - ◇ As you watch video remember each poppy is a life lost
- Watch video and let it sink in – to remember and recognise

2) Influence in army

- On a day when we think about war and soldiers it is worth remembering there are many positive lessons to be learned to be looking at the military
- Bible uses many military pictures
 - ◇ The full armour of God – eph 6
 - ◇ Endure hardship as a good soldier – 2 tim 2
 - ◇ The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God for pulling down strongholds 2 cor 10
- Today want to think particularly about our series theme – everyone's a leader
- Everyone has influence
- Modern armies recognise the influence that every soldier has on the soldiers in their unit
 - ◇ Australian and Singaporean armies actually use the phrase 'every soldier a leader'
- The influence of the official leader has the greatest impact - but everyone has influence
 - ◇ I recently watched the royal marine commando school series
 - ◇ Everyone influences by what they contribute
 - ◆ What they do when there are combined tasks to be done
 - ◆ Do they create work or do work?
 - ◆ Do they lift the troop by what they say, or bring them down?
 - ◆ Do they look for the best in the situation or moan about the worst?
 - ◆ Do they encourage their team mates to endure, leave them to flounder, help, or even make things worse by moaning?
 - ◇ The instructors
 - ◆ "you can do this if you put the effort in"
- Conduct that damages morale is very serious in army
 - ◇ A negative influence that hurts everyone

3) Responsibility to influence

- So there is recognition that everyone has an ability to influence – everyone's a leader
 - ◇ Therefore everyone has a responsibility - Title
- Luke 12:48 to whom much is given, much is expected
 - ◇ If someone has no idea how they influence then there is less blame
 - ◇ But to all who know they have influence there is a responsibility to pay attention to it – that's us
 - ◇ Spiderman – with great power comes great responsibility

- Be There - Presence
 - ◇ In any setting you influence by being there or not being there
 - ◇ Family, work, church
 - ◇ If you're not there = potentially negative influence
 - ◆ There are some people we'd rather didn't turn up but that's not you
 - ◇ If you're physically present then that in itself says something
 - ◇ NB – beware of being your phone – it sends signals
- In Word
 - ◇ Do you talk things up, or talk things down
 - ◇ Do you look for/talk about positives – or negatives
 - ◆ I naturally talk things down –have to guard against it
 - ◆ Natural tendency - Tend to look for problems, critical
 - ◆ Glass half full/or half empty – I think that's not a very good glass
 - ◇ Our words are one of the easiest and biggest tools of influence we have
 - ◆ You can do this/you can't do this
 - ◇ Bible warns in both old and new testament about grumbling and complaining
 - ◆ Because that's a big influence on yourself and others
 - ◇ I'm not saying you can't ever criticise
 - ◆ constructive criticism is different – is inherently positive
 - ◆ but make sure you are being positive
- and deed - actions - getting involved
 - ◇ participate or spectate
 - ◇ if people just watch you do something it can be really off putting
 - ◆ e.g. housework
 - ◇ join in together – at least by your words of football match
- There is responsibility to
 - ◇ Be there
 - ◇ In word
 - ◇ And deed
- To be salt/light , for iron to sharpen iron you need to
 - ◇ Be there
 - ◇ In word
 - ◇ And deed

4) Connection, Transformation, Position

- This can come over as being a bit 'heavy'
 - ◇ focusing on the 'position' aspect of connection, transformation, position
- But you're not alone
 - ◇ Connection comes first – we do this with God
 - ◆ If it were just us this would be a weight to bear
 - ◆ With God it's an adventure with our Dad
 - ◇ Transformation – we start where we're at
 - ◆ Not about pretending to be something we're not
 - ◆ About being who we actually are in God
 - ◆ That involves a journey of transformation
- Great commission
- "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matt 28:18-20
- Remembrance day reminds us
 - ◇ Of people who step up in time of conflict to accept responsibility
 - ◇ As soldiers or in other ways
 - ◇ Sets us an example
- Accept our responsibility for how we use our influence