

Implementation Of Esther's Leadership In Christian Leadership Profession

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Abstract: Women's leadership is nothing new in this modern era but has always been an interesting issue to discuss. The Bible records that Esther was a Jewish woman who was later appointed Queen of Persia to replace Vashti who then fought as leader for her Jewish people. The research method used is a qualitative method with literature research and Old Testament studies to clearly understand Esther's leadership style which can be applied in the current era of emancipation and Christian leadership. The research results show that Esther is able to become a heroic leader, supported by her excellent ability to communicate verbally and non-verbally.

Keywords: Implementation, Esther's Leadership, Christian Leadership

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is still an interesting issue to discuss. How come? In fact, every human being is a leader, at least a leader for himself. Every leader certainly has a responsibility not only to his superiors but also to the people he leads. A leader must inspire his followers to continue to innovate, be creative, work together, have integrity, be committed, be service oriented, be highly disciplined, be confident and dominate. What about a woman's leadership? In this modern era, even though efforts to achieve gender equality are always promoted, women's struggle to become leaders still faces many challenges. If a leader, whether male or female, is responsible for his superiors and the people he leads, then good communication is needed between both of them. It is not uncommon for leadership problems to arise due to miscommunication, leaders not being wise in conveying things to those they lead or to their superiors, as well as the inability to communicate things at the right time. With this background, the author is interested in researching the implementation of Esther's leadership in Christian leadership.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative research method where the author collects descriptive data through library research including literature studies, books, journals and of course the Bible as the main library material. Next, the author analyzes

and compiles the construction of thoughts about Queen Esther as a profile of a Christian leader as well as a female leader in the Old Testament.

DISCUSSION and RESULTS

Christian Leadership

Leadership is not just about having a position, but about the ability to motivate, direct and influence others. If traced, Leadership has existed for almost as long as humans have existed on this earth. In the Bible, leadership has existed since the time of the prophets, when our ancestors gathered together, worked together to survive and at that time the individuals appointed as leaders were the strongest, smartest and bravest people. This system places parents as leaders. Regarding Christian Leadership, the earliest forms of leadership in the Old Testament were family, clan and tribal leadership as non-formal models of social leadership. Of course they are chosen people and have the ability to lead. The basic postulates of Christian leadership are based on the teachings of the Bible. The Bible is a handbook for leadership, especially Christian leadership. Leadership is based on God, by His sovereign will, determining and selecting each individual in the context of service to become a leader. If investigated seriously, in the Old Testament on almost every page we can find biographies, characters, personalities, ministries, works and writings of the leaders of that era. Call it Moses, Samuel, David and many more. From them we learn that Christian Leadership means the ability to affirm oneself as someone called by God to lead many people based on the Bible. Next, we will discuss Esther's leadership profile as a Christian leader as well as a female leader among the Jewish people.

Esther's Leadership

Ester (Hadasa) is a girl who is beautiful in appearance and beautiful in appearance. After his parents died, he was adopted as a son and raised by Mordecai, his father's brother (Esther 2:7). Mordecai bin Yair bin Shimei bin Kish, was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin. His great-grandfather, Kish, was taken from Jerusalem as one of the exiles who accompanied Jeconiah, king of the Kingdom of Judah, when he was taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (Esther 2:5-6). This means that Esther was a Jewish woman who was born, lived and grew up in the city of Susa, the capital of the Persian kingdom. However, even though he lived far from his homeland, he still maintained his beliefs and identity as a Jew. At that time, the Persian Empire reached the peak of its glory by controlling 127 regions stretching from India to Ethiopia. In the third year of his reign, a banquet was held for all his officials and officials while showing off the riches of his kingdom's glory for one hundred

and eighty days. Then the king also held an equally luxurious banquet for all the people for seven days. Likewise with Queen Vashti, she also held a banquet for all the women in the palace of King Ahasuerus. When Ahasuerus, who was full of joy from drinking wine, ordered the queen to go to the king to show her beauty to all the people, but the queen refused; So the king's anger was very angry and hot. After asking the eunuch what should be done with the queen according to the law, a royal decree was issued that Vashti was prohibited from appearing before the king and that the king would give the position of queen to someone better than her. After the king's anger subsided, decrees and laws for a beauty contest spread throughout the kingdom to replace Queen Vashti. Esther was taken to the king's palace, under the supervision of Hegai (female guard) who impressed her by providing the best service in the women's hall for twelve months. When her turn came to appear before the king, Esther was able to arouse affection in everyone who saw her and Esther was loved by the king more than all other women. She received his affection and love more than all the other virgins, then the royal crown was placed on Esther's head and she was appointed Queen of Persia. So far, Esther remained a big secret as ordered by her uncle Mordecai not to reveal her origins and nationality. This was the beginning of the process of forming Esther into a Christian leader. Basically, the ability to process words is one of the tools possessed by women and one of the aspects that supports natural female leadership is verbal ability. Women have the ability to find the right words quickly (cf. Esther 7:3). Women can also influence the minds and hearts of others through their words and voices. Ability to demonstrate supportive postures and movements, able to read the complexity of facial emotions and able to listen to changes in pressure in the voice. Generally, women have a better sense of taste, touch, smell and hearing so that women are better able to understand various things between the lines. This ability of course really supports other important leadership aspects, including the ability to build and maintain relationships (networking). This literature shows that the ability of leaders to be expressive, honest, able to connect with other people personally and better understand other people's feelings is generally found in women. After being appointed Queen in the Persian Empire led by King Ahasuerus, a major threat approached her people, the Jews. Haman, a royal official in whom the King had great trust and even gave the order that all the people must submit to him, was an evil person. When he saw that Mordecai would not bow down to him, he hated him very much. Then he learned that Mordecai was a Jew, so Haman immediately persuaded the King to make a decision to eliminate all the Jews in the Persian kingdom, including Mordecai. To determine the day of the massacre, Haman rolled the dice (pur) and it was determined that the day of the massacre would be held eleven months later,

namely on the 13th of the month of Adar. Next the King held a drinking banquet to celebrate this terrible decision. Mordecai then asked Esther for help to deal with this threat. They plan to reveal the identity of Esther the Queen and appeal to the King to reverse the previous decree. Esther's leadership started from this plan. He had to appear before the King without being invited, even though according to royal regulations, this could be punished by death (Esther 4:11). At first, Esther was hesitant, because revealing her identity as a Jew meant facing a great risk, but with Mordecai's encouragement, with courage, Esther decided to face even the worst possibility. She asked the entire Jewish community to fast for three days, while she and her ladies-in-waiting also fasted. In this case we see Esther who gave up her struggle in prayer by fasting for three days. Then Queen Esther's courage to defend her people was seen in her statement: if I am forced to die, let me die (Esther 4:16). Finally on the third day, Esther put on the queen's clothes and stood in front of the King's palace, a very dangerous act. However, it turned out that the King accepted Esther well and promised to give her whatever she wanted. Humbly, Esther invited the King and Haman to the banquet she was holding. The King repeatedly asked what she wanted, and Esther repeatedly answered with humility and simplicity, choosing the right words, Esther always started her answer with: "If it is good in the eyes of the king and if the servant gets the king's love." Then the evil and arrogant Haman ordered Mordecai to build an impalement pole 50 cubits high. On the second day of the banquet, Esther boldly revealed Haman's evil plan. King Ahasuerus was shocked and angry, until things turned around, the King ordered Haman to be hanged on the pole that had been prepared for Mordecai. Esther's leadership is reflected in her courage to face fear and doubt. He took great risks to save his people. His heroic story provides a lesson about the importance of courage and being willing to make sacrifices in assuming responsibility. Esther led wisely by planning and implementing strategies.

Esther's Leadership Steps in the Christian Leadership Profession

Queen Esther's presence in King Ahasuerus' palace certainly received great attention from a number of palace guards, especially from Haman who had a conflict with his uncle. Surrendering to God was the first step taken by Esther in her great mission to fight for the right to live for her people. She asked all the Jews, herself and her ladies-in-waiting, to fast for three days. Isn't this a symbol of calm in asking God for guidance on what he should do for his nation? This is the main characteristic of Christian leaders that in their leadership, God must be involved in every action, especially in determining big decisions. Without God, the goal will not be achieved. Esther's second step was caution, she was always careful to look at the situation and conditions around her because she truly believed that her every move and

word would always be watched by a number of palace residents. The third step that is clearly visible from Esther's leadership is being wise in reading situations and conditions. This can be seen when Esther did not directly convey her wishes to the King, but invited them to a banquet. He learned to read the situation when the time was right to convey his request to the King. On the second day of the banquet, Esther's next leadership step was seen, namely self-courage. Daring to openly expose Haman's crimes in front of the King certainly requires great courage because he himself still keeps a big secret about his nationality. This is in line with Dr. Adesanya Ibiyinka Olusola that Esther illuminated Israel like the light of dawn, while this light itself was like darkness for the nations of the world. Esther dared to risk death for her people. With his patriotism, he won for his nation. Esther was used by God as a tool for His provision of work for noble purposes.

Leadership Using Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication

Esther's specialty in communicating is a characteristic of her leadership, namely excelling in verbal and non-verbal communication. Verbal communication is a form of communication carried out orally and in writing, while non-verbal communication is communication carried out other than verbally, or can be carried out using gestures, using body movements, facial expressions, intonation and language style. Verbal communication occupies a large portion because in reality, ideas, thoughts or decisions are easier to convey verbally than non-verbally. Meanwhile, non-verbal communication consisting of body language, signs, actions or objects turns out to be the key to trust in communication where Albert Mahrabian's (1971) study concluded that the level of trust in communication is 55% of expressions advance. Her firmness in soft and humble speech when talking to the King shows Esther's skill in communicating. Even before that day arrived, he communicated his anguish through his expression, so that the King repeatedly asked him what the Queen's wish was. His leadership move that complements his communication skills is humility. Even though she is Queen, she is not careless in speaking to the King, but her good choice of words is always visible in every word she says. So it is true that the essence of communication is very influential in establishing a relationship. Lastly, in the midst of threats and uncertainty, Ester provides an example of how a female leader must act to protect and fight for the interests of many people above personal interests.

CONCLUSION

The Bible records that Esther's leadership was a leadership style that was obedient, charismatic and heroic. A female leader who is charismatic through her ability in verbal and

non-verbal communication. A heroic leader, bravely acting in difficult and dangerous situations. Even with the status of queen in the palace, she did not use her power for personal gain, but to save her nation from the threat of destruction. Through Esther's leadership, every Christian leader is challenged to become a leader who involves God in every mission, is brave, wise in reading situations and conditions and is skilled at communicating both verbally and non-verbally.

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