



THE 'BEAUTIFUL BURDEN' OF LEADERSHIP

with Ricky Smith

▶ FOCUS VERSE

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
Proverbs 15:1

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **Do you remember the point or period in your life when you decided what you wanted your career or life's work to be?**
 - a. What inspired you to come to that conclusion?
 - b. Do you look at it differently now that you're older and have the benefit of experience and hindsight?

2. **Have you ever held a position of authority or leadership where you found it difficult to be humble, or to recognize that you didn't "own" the group you were leading?**
(See Philippians 2:3-4.)
 - a. Did you eventually take a step back and make an effort to be more humble?
 - b. If so, what prompted you to do that?



- 3. In recalling the challenges of addressing the George Floyd incident with his congregation, Ricky observes that people were afraid to say the wrong thing, so they didn't say anything at all.**
- Have you ever been in a similar situation—one where you could've taken a stand or said something that needed to be said, but didn't?
 - Do you regret that choice?
- 4. When you find yourself in a debate or argument—whether it's about politics, sports, or anything else—are you the kind of person who tries to bring both sides together, or the kind who always wants to have the last word? (See *Matthew 5:9*.)**
- How has that helped you in your social circle, and how has it hurt?
- 5. Do you think you generally do a good job of “picking your battles”—specifically, sticking to your principles on big issues but not getting caught in arguments over petty matters?**
- 6. Do you and your spouse approach communication in the kind of proactive way that Ricky and his wife do, or do you often find yourself surprised by things that one of you knew about but the other didn't?**
- If it's the latter, what are some things you could do to communicate more frequently, or plan your communications further in advance, so that neither of you ends up getting blindsided?
- 7. As Ricky's dad told him, “The way to keep the honey in the honeymoon is by never stopping the habit of dating your wife.”**
- Do you and your spouse go on “dates,” and if so, how often?
 - If not, what are some things the two of you have talked about doing that you could do *today*, or in the next few days, without causing problems in your schedules?

