Shepherd Leadership: Wisdom for Leaders from Psalm 23 by David Davenport

A More Effective Management Style

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me bedside the still waters;

He restoreth my soul. Todays professionals need reliable models to teach them how to become better leaders. In this remarkable book, leadership experts Blaine McCormick and David Davenport introduce us to a new kind of leader by offering a new image of leadership—the leader as shepherd.

Drawing on the wisdom of the timeless Twenty-Third Psalm, King Davids psalm, the authors provide professionals with ancient wisdom for grappling with todays leadership challenges. Shepherd Leadership offers a much-needed lens through which to consider our own leadership as well as the leadership of those around us. This important book teaches us important lessons about leadership: we can be vigilant without being adversarial, we can serve without being passive, and we can guide without commanding. Shepherd Leadership offers a visionary new model for transforming leadership practices in both corporate and small business settings. This is whole-person leadership. Its not just a matter of thinking or doing things a certain way. Its a fully integrated life—a matter of head and hand and heart. Its a way of thinking and doing and being.

My Personal Review:
I understand the aphroism is really "brevity is the soul of wit" - but this small volume demands that the phrase be recast. McCormick and Davenport take the 23rd Psalm apart and suggest some basic principles about leadership that come from the psalm. The book is loaded with examples of each of the styles or main points. But perhaps even more valuable is a series of suggestions to work with the principles established in each chapter. I found the most interesting issue raised in the book one about Supply Side management. I have been a CEO of an organization for more than a dozen years. McCormick and Davenport suggest that the role of a leader is too often looked at from the demand side of the equation - those inevitable lists. But leaders should also consider the supply side -
what excites you about the job? How does one find those niches which make the lists of to dos a bit less demanding. Many leadership jobs seem to be comparable to that of Sisyphus. But with a little attention to the supply side - those inevitable demands become less onerous. Buy it, read it, use it!

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