



Lead Like Jesus: Week 1 April 19th

Getting Started

1. When you think of the Term “Leader” who is it that comes to mind?

Thoughts

Leadership is defined as *“Both a research area and a practical skill, regarding the ability of an individual or organization to “lead” or guide other individuals, teams, or entire organizations.”*

“The Dichotomy of Leadership A good leader must be: confident but not cocky; courageous but not foolhardy; competitive but a gracious loser; attentive to details but not obsessed by them; strong but have endurance; a leader and follower; humble not passive; aggressive not overbearing; quiet not silent; calm but not robotic, logical but not devoid of emotions; close with the troops but not so close that one becomes more important than another or more important than the good of the team; not so close that they forget who is in charge. able to execute Extreme Ownership, while exercising Decentralized Command. A good leader has nothing to prove, but everything to prove.” Jacko Willink, Seal Team Leader

Scripture

Supplemental Context: Who was Paul and Timothy?

“Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.”
1Timothy . 2:8

“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his

children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.” 1Timothy . 3:1-4

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.” 1Timothy . 4:1-6

Digging Deeper

If we agree that the story of Jesus is the most compelling story in all of human existence, that to me makes Jesus the greatest leader of all time.

“Jesus and Paul both left immense spiritual legacies. Their approaches to leadership shared many similarities and one profound difference. As servant leaders with a clear calling and vision for God’s glory to be spread to all nations, both Jesus and Paul exhibited core aspects of servant leadership through their lives, strategies, and methods. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but to capture some of the key similarities in their ministries.”

Calling

Each viewed himself as called by God as a servant sent to proclaim the good news. Understanding and acceptance

of one's calling provides a deep personal sense of security and emotional stability. This stable foundation allows one to freely serve others without risking personal worth. A clear sense of calling also provides motivation to endure through inevitable difficulty and suffering. Jesus frequently referred to his calling and purpose (e.g., Luke 19:10; Mark 10:45; John 13:1-4), as did Paul in the majority of his letters (e.g., Rom. 1:1-5; 15:20-21; 1 Cor. 9:15-23).

Intimacy with God

Jesus and Paul constantly affirmed and modeled the fundamentals of pursuing unbroken fellowship and abiding intimacy with God. These practices included devotion (e.g., Mark 1:35; 2 Cor. 11:3), intercessory prayer (e.g., Luke 11:1-13; Eph. 1:15-23), and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit (e.g., Luke 4:1; Gal. 5:22-23). A servant's ministry shrivels up when an abiding first love for God is abandoned (e.g., John 15:1-8; Rev. 2:1-5).

Love

Both men constantly referred to the primacy of *agapao* love. Jesus summarized the entire Old Testament law in two commands: Love God and love people (Matt. 22:37-40). He gave a new commandment to his disciples to love one another "just as I have loved you," promising that "by this all people will know that you are my disciples (John 13:34-35). Jesus connected love to obedience and to the indwelling presence of the Helper, the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17). Love was Paul's dominant ethic, far above service, self-sacrifice, faith, or hope (cf. 1 Cor. 13:1-8; Gal. 5:22-23). Paul's missionary teams were controlled by the love of Christ as they served as ambassadors in the ministry of reconciliation (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-21)."

<http://www.onleadingwell.com/2012/03/14/similarities-leadership-jesus-paul-part-1/>

Application

We are all leaders, Leaders in our homes, Leaders in our jobs and most definitely Leaders in God's Kingdom. It's a challenging thing to recognize and honestly, it's scary. We did not fill out an application for this job, no one handed us an Employee Operations Manual the first day. However we have been handpicked, graciously selected

and we should consider it an honor. Luckily for us the great ones that came before understood the importance of these teachings and put forth effort to pass on the knowledge just as we will be called to do.

I often ask myself how to do it. "How do I Lead?" Our culture has pushed us towards many examples of leaders but many of those are not leaders who stand on a solid foundation of granite principles. I seek out leaders that live by the examples Paul has provided. I see how they do it, I mimic, I copy and I learn. In doing so I have the ability to teach, knowingly and unknowingly.

I believe to be a Leader and a Good Minister of God you can follow these three principles and not go wrong.

- Search/Follow/Grow in your **Calling**

We are each uniquely called to a purpose. Some of us have known what their purpose is from a young age and others may be in the process of still trying to figure out the specifics of what it is. Just know that if you still don't know what it is...that you're okay you are in the majority. The journey begins knowing that you do have one and you will one day undoubtedly know what it is. The search is exciting.

- Peruse an **Intimate** relationship with Jesus

I think this looks different for everyone. For me it can be as simple as spending a few quiet moments each morning.

- To have/give unconditional **Love**

Easier said than done. It will be a challenge we will work at becoming better at for the rest of our lives.

Next Steps

How fresh is your sense of the Lord's calling? How intimate is your relationship with Him? Are you consistently growing in love for God and others? How can you use your gifts to lead others to know more about Jesus?