

Learning to Lead Like Christ **Mark 10:42-45**

Introduction:

1. Guys, you meet the girl of your dreams, you date for a while, you fall in love, you ask her to marry you, you have a wedding ceremony, a honeymoon, but then you come back down to earth from your heavenly orbit, and you have to learn to live together – in peace!
2. Often, guys are like, “Wow! What in the world happened? We got along great while we dated.” Sometimes it can be like two porcupines trying to live in the same house.
3. More times than not, when there are issues that begin to surface in a marriage, it is because the man is failing to provide the leadership that his wife needs.
4. God designed the man to provide leadership for his wife. But the wife responds to whatever style of leadership he employs. Many times this can be an explosive situation that makes July 4th's fireworks look like nothing.
5. Ladies, you must understand that most men have not had a godly leader to mentor them, showing them how God wants them to love and lead a wife. They've had no real example. We have to learn and grow into godly leaders.
6. Jesus Christ was a leader like no other, but as we study the life of Christ, we find some interesting discoveries.
 - He was the greatest leader the world has ever known because He was the greatest follower the world has ever known.
 - He never swerved from following the Father's will. John 4:34
7. God is looking for some men who will be committed followers of Jesus Christ in their homes, churches, and communities. We will never be effective leaders until we become dedicated followers of Jesus Christ.
8. What were the traits that marked Christ's leadership?

First, Christ did not selfishly dominate others. vs. 42

1. Jesus described the world's attitude concerning leadership.
 - *“To rule over”* – to be first in rank or power.
 - *“Exercise lordship”* – to lord over, control, subjugate.
 - *“Exercise authority”* – to wield full privilege over.
2. Here's a summary of the world's philosophy – dominate, bully, control and manipulate others. Use your position and use others to get what you want.
3. But in verse 43 Jesus said, *“But so shall it not be among you...”*
4. As we look at Christ's life, we never see Him using His power and authority to rule over others for personal gain. When He walked this earth, Christ's attitude was of that which is found in Philippians 2:4-8 – service, humility, obedience, sacrifice.
5. How can we apply this to marriage? Men who try to employ the world's methodology in leading their homes are going to find it will not work, nor is it

successful. You can't rule over your wife and children and expect to have a happy home.

Second, Christ led by ministering.

1. According to Christ, what defines a great leader? Look at verse 43 – a great leader is one who ministers to the needs of others.
2. Jesus Christ was a great leader because His entire life and attitude was characterized by ministry. **Example:** Matthew 9:35-36
 - Jesus desired to minister to as many people as He possibly could. He saw the “sheep,” and His first thought was not, “How can they serve me and my agenda, but how can I shepherd them by serving and helping them?”
3. In our text, the word “*minister*” is the Greek word, “*diakonos*.” It is where we get the word “*deacon*.” It means “to run on errands, an attendant, a waiter (at a table or in other menial duties).”
4. Do you know the context of this passage? Two of Jesus’ disciples (James and John) have just come to Jesus (with their mother cf. Matthew 20:20) to be granted something by Him. vs. 37
 - “It’s not anything too big – You know, we just want to sit on the seats on the right hand and left hand of Your throne when You reign in Your glory in Your kingdom. We want everybody to see us when they see You.”
They were misguided about leadership; they thought leadership was about power, position, authority, and control.
5. Jesus gave them a lesson in leadership. And we would be wise to learn this lesson too. According to Jesus, the one (the husband) who ministers the most is the greatest (meeting her needs, helping her when she is tired, protecting her, etc.).

Third, Christ ministered by serving.

1. If a Christ-like leader has a ministry mindset, what does that cause the leader to do? Look at verse 44.
2. Jesus taught that it leads them to serve. Jesus taught that if you want to be first in a position of influence (“*chiefest*” – foremost), you serve others. Galatians 5:13 teaches us that love should motivate us to serve others.
3. If I love my wife, I find ways to serve her. And by the way, the wife does the same thing if she is filled with the Spirit of Christ. What do you think would happen in a marriage where both spouses are attempting to serve each other? It would be a little taste of heaven on earth.
4. What do you think would happen in a church where every church member served each other, rather than griping and complaining?
5. Jesus was such an example. He didn’t come to be a political King, demanding to be served; rather, He came to serve. And it was His service that would take Him all the way to the cross. Matthew 20:28
 - He took all of our sins on Himself and paid the full debt on that which we owed because of our sin. He made a way; He made it possible for every one of us to have eternal life. He served us by dying for us.

6. If you aren't serving, you can't be like Christ. Serving others is the essence of the Christ-life.
7. Imagine a marriage where a husband and wife are serving each other. Imagine a church where the members are all serving each other and serving the community. If this depicted a marriage or a local church, we would have homes and churches full of joy.
8. Philippians teaches us that the mind of Christ is one of serving, which is the basis of joy. True joy comes, not by selfishness, but by selflessness – by serving.

Fourth, Christ served by sacrificing.

1. Christ was a giver, not a taker. His attitude was not “I want,” but “I will.” His life was spent sacrificing for the needs of others. vs. 45; 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - Again, the word “*minister*” in verse 45 is our word “deacon.”
 - Christ was the ultimate “deacon” or “minister.” He didn't serve when it was convenient. How easy or convenient do you think it was for Him to go to the cross and make a sacrifice for our sins?
2. The American culture and mindset puts a lot of value on convenience. That's why we have cell phones, microwaves, and drive-thru windows! That's why Amazon has made a killing, providing you with the ease of shopping without leaving your house, right?
3. But please understand, true, Christ-honoring serving requires sacrifice. You give up something that you **could** keep in order to help somebody else and be a blessing to them. This is Christ-like. Philippians 2:5-7 says, “*Christ... thought it not robbery... but made himself of no reputation...* ” He sacrificed and gave what He could have rightfully kept.
4. Guys, it's Father's Day, and I am sure that each of you desire to be greater leaders for your families. What a great person to learn from – straight from the lips of Jesus!
5. If we are going to be the leaders Christ would have us to be, we must have a ministry mindset that leads us to serve, and service that leads us to sacrifice.

Conclusion:

1. Imagine a home and marriage where everybody is serving each other and sacrificing for the good of each other. What a happy, joyful, and contented home that would be.
2. And it is possible through Jesus Christ.