

Tonight's Lesson: "A Different Kind of Leader"

Mark 10:42-45

Introduction:

1. Leadership is ***influence***.
2. Influence is the ability to move another person in a direction you believe is important.
3. By any definition, Jesus Christ was a ***leader*** like no other!
4. 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. John 4:34
5. Let's examine the traits that marked Christ's leadership.

I. Christ did not selfishly ***dominate*** others. vs. 42

- A. As we look at Christ's life, we never see Him using His power and authority to selfishly ***rule*** over others.
- B. Philippians 2:4-8 describes Christ's attitude when He walked this earth.

II. Christ led by ***ministering***. vs. 43

- A. According to Christ, what defines a great leader?
 - A great leader is one who ministers to the ***needs*** of others.
- B. Jesus Christ was a great leader, because His entire life and attitude was characterized by ***ministry***.

III. Christ ministered by ***servicing***. vs. 44

- A Christ-like leader has a ministry mind-set. But what does that attitude cause a leader to do?
- In Mark 10:44, Jesus taught that it leads a person to ***serve***.
 - "*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*" Galatians 5:13

IV. Christ served by ***sacrificing***. vs. 45

- Christ was a ***giver***, not a taker. He sacrificed in every area.
- "*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*" 2 Corinthians 8:9

Tonight's Lesson: "A Leader With a Different Heart"

Introduction:

1. The Bible uses the word "heart" to describe who a person truly is on the **inside**.
 - *"But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the Lord looketh on the heart.**" 1 Samuel 16:7*
2. **What characterizes a spiritual leader's heart?** The Bible gives us several key principles.

I. **First, Christ *rules* it. Ephesians 3:17**

- A. Christ's Spirit may live in our spirit, but every day we decide whether He will have **control** of our heart.
- B. There is an ongoing battle for **control** of our heart.
 - *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."* Galatians 5:16-17

II. **Second, integrity *guides* it.**

- A. Two times, David is said to have walked in integrity of heart. 1 Kings 9:4, Psalm 78:72
- B. Integrity is the **cornerstone** of character. Without it, a leader has no basis for **ministry** to others.
 - *"**The integrity of the upright shall guide them:** but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."* Proverbs 11:3

III. **Third, God's Word *Changes* it.**

- A. If Christ rules the heart, He reveals areas of the heart that need to **change**.
- B. How does Christ change our heart? He uses the **Word**. 2 Corinthians 3:14-18

- *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

IV. Fourth, trials *reveal* it.

- A. Trials have a way of bringing to the surface what is in the heart.
- Trials reveal our **love** for the Lord. James 1:12
 - Trials reveal our **faith**. 1 Peter 1:6-7
 - *“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.” 2 Thessalonians 1:4*
 - Trials reveal our heart **attitude** about God. 1 Peter 4:16, 19
- B. How did Paul and Silas respond to a deep trial in Acts 16:23-25?
- C. This trial revealed the heart of Paul and Silas. Trials **always** do!

In Conclusion:

1. A leader for God is **different** than the crowd. Why? Because his heart is different.
2. The leader’s heart:
 - Christ **rules** it.
 - Integrity **guides** it.
 - God’s Word **changes** it.
 - Trials **reveal** it.
3. God is looking for leaders with a different heart!

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Tonight's Lesson: "A Leader With a Different Attitude"

Exodus 32

Introduction:

1. Moses was at the top of Mt. Sinai receiving God's commandments for His people.
2. While Moses was up on the Mount, he left Aaron in charge. Aaron **failed** miserably as a leader.
3. Aaron was a man with some wrong attitudes.
4. Let's learn from Aaron's negative example, and let's see four attitudes that every spiritual leader must possess.

I. A leader's attitude is to please **God**, not **people**.

- A. In verse 1, the people wanted to engage in idol worship, thereby breaking God's first and second commands.
- B. There is no record of any resistance on Aaron's part. vs. 2-5
 - *"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment."* **Exodus 23:2**
- C. Aaron wanted to be popular more than he wanted to be **pure**.
 - *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."* **Galatians 1:10**
 - *"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."*
1 Thessalonians 2:4
- D. Aaron failed as a leader because he was a **people** pleaser rather than a God pleaser.

II. A leader's attitude is to confront his own sin **first**.

- A. Sometimes a leader **does** have to confront sin, but Galatians 6:1 is the **right** attitude.
 - *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."* **Galatians 6:1**

- B. Rather than focus on his own sin, Aaron first focused on **Moses'** disposition.
vs. 19-22

III. A leader's attitude is to take personal responsibility for his actions.

- A. Aaron was ready to pass the blame. vs. 22-23
- B. Very few people want to take responsibility for their **choices** today.
- ¹¹*“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. ¹²So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* **Romans 14:11-12**

IV. A leader's attitude is one of complete honesty. vs. 24

Tonight's Lesson: "A Leader With a Different Spirit"

Introduction:

1. Daniel is a wonderful example of a leader with a different spirit.
 - *"Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."* **Daniel 6:3**
2. Many leaders possess a haughty spirit, but God is looking for leaders with a **humble** spirit. Proverbs 16:18-19, 29:23
3. A leader with a humble spirit will always possess a **teachable** spirit. Proverbs 9:8-9

I. A leader with a teachable spirit has accepted the following facts:

- A. "I don't **know** everything."
 - There is so much to learn in regards to the Christian life. Romans 15:4
 - *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them."* **2 Timothy 3:14**
 - **Christ** is our example. Hebrews 5:8
 - *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."* **Luke 2:52**
- B. "Other people know things that I do **not** know." Philippians 4:9
- C. "God uses other **people** to teach me." Proverbs 27:5-6

II. What are the Biblical characteristics of those with a teachable spirit?

- A. They have learned to love **instruction**. Proverbs 9:9, 12:1
- B. They have learned to love people who **give** them instruction. Proverbs 9:8
- C. They possess a contrite, tender **heart**. Psalm 34:18
 - *"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."* **Isaiah 57:15**
- D. They are constantly looking for better **ways** and open to new **ideas**.
 - A godly leader has learned the Biblical art of **listening**. Proverbs 17:27-28, 18:13

III. What are the characteristics of those with a non-teachable spirit?

- A. They get very **defensive** when confronted by someone else. Proverbs 29:1, Jeremiah 5:3
- B. They become **bitter** at those who try to give them instruction. Proverbs 1:7, 9:7-8, 15:10,12
- C. They have a problem **admitting** wrong-doing. Jeremiah 6:16, 7:23-24

IV. Why do people possess a non-teachable spirit?

- A. **Parents** who never corrected. Proverbs 22:15, 29:15,17
- B. **Pride**. Proverbs 13:10, 29:23
- C. A problem with **authority**. Proverbs 17:10-11

V. Here are some Biblical principles that will help us to develop a teachable spirit:

- A. **Light** is not your enemy. John 3:19-21
- B. **Truth** is your friend. John 8:32
 - Truth is sometimes **painful**, but it's always your friend.
- C. Instruction is your **life**-line. Proverbs 4:13, 5:12-13,23, 12:1, 13:18
- D. **Rebuke** is God's hammer and chisel. Proverbs 13:1, 27:5-6
 - *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."* **2 Timothy 4:2**
 - *"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."* **Titus 1:13**
 - *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."* **Revelation 3:19**

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Moses – A Leader Who Wasn't Afraid Of Change

Exodus 18:11-27

Introduction:

1. The church is a living **body** – the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27;
Ephesians 5:30
2. Because of this, **growth** should be a very natural part of the church. Ephesians 2:21;
1 Peter 2:2
3. But there is no growth without **change**. Romans 12:2
4. Therefore, leaders and churches must learn to embrace change.
5. Let's examine an event in Moses' life and see how we can become people who learn to embrace change.

First, by realizing that principles stay the same, but **methods** will constantly change

1. What was the guiding principle? The **needs** of the people must be met.
2. But, under Jethro's advice, Moses changed the **method**.

Second, by refusing to fall in **love** with forms (the way we've always done it), but rather focus on function

1. A "form" is a non-biblical **tradition** that many people come to love and embrace.
2. Many times our "forms" **bind** us and keep us from functioning. Matthew 15:1-6
3. Moses' form may have worked at one time, but as the nation of Israel grew, it was no longer **functional**, practical, or workable.
4. If they had clung to form rather than function, Moses would have **worn** out and the people's needs would not have been met.
5. If the church continues to cling to their "forms," it will stagnate and eventually dwindle.
6. Sadly, many believers will let their church be **destroyed** before they will give up their "forms."

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Third, by humbly receiving advice from others

1. The leader, Moses, had a decision to make. “Do I cling to the traditional, non-working ‘form,’ or do I dare to change?”
2. Moses humbly received this advice and decided to dare to change.
3. When a person gives us advice, it is usually a call to change. This isn’t easy to take.
4. But here are some biblical thoughts from the book of Proverbs about receiving advice from others:

- *“Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.”*

Proverbs 4:13

- When we quit learning, we die.

- *“Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.”* **Proverbs 8:33**

- Do you want to become wiser? Become a better listener!

- *“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.”* **Proverbs 9:9**

- A refusal to receive instruction is a problem of the heart.

- A wise man is always open to new ideas and better ways of doing things.

- *“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.”* **Proverbs 12:1**

- Do you want to get smarter? Don’t just tolerate instruction, learn to love it.

- *“Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.”* **Proverbs 13:18**

- Those that hate instruction seldom excel in life.

- *“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.”* **Proverbs 19:20**

- Believers who possess great wisdom did not receive it by accident, but through years of humbly receiving instruction from others.

5. How well do you receive advice and instruction from others?

(1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10)

not very well

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Fourth, by overcoming our innate fear of change

1. Why do people cling to “forms?” Why are people resistant to change?
 - Fear that the change won't work
 - Afraid of what others will think
 - Fear of leaving our comfort zone
2. We must overcome fear if we are going to grow and change.
 - *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7*

In Conclusion:

1. Change is seldom easy or comfortable, but it is very needed in our spiritual lives.
2. There is no growth without change, and there is no change without growth. The two are inseparably tied together.
3. As believers, we must learn to not just tolerate change, but embrace it.

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