

# BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP



*Developing Spirit-Empowered,  
Servant-Hearted Leaders*

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## 2 - SERVANT LEADERSHIP

*Biblical leadership begins with serving.*

### SUGGESTED READING

Developing the Leader Within You, by John C. Maxwell

Contending for the Authentic: When God's people become a "church without walls," by Jim Hayford

Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda, by Richard and Henry Blackaby

Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility, by Duane Elmer

### KEY SCRIPTURES

1. In Matthew 20:20-28, Jesus confronted the disciples' view of power and authority and turned leadership "upside down," comparing secular norms with Kingdom principles.
2. In John 13:1-17, Jesus modeled servanthood by washing the feet of the disciples. With a towel and basin He established the pre-eminence of others instead of self and challenged us to follow His example of leadership.
3. In Acts 6:1-7, the church responds to conflict through Spirit-led servant leadership as the Apostles appointed qualified, humble leaders to meet real needs, protect unity, allowing the Word of God to move forward as the church continued to grow.
4. Without a \_\_\_\_\_ it is *impossible* to become a Godly leader. Because it is not our natural behavior to serve, it requires a personal transformation (salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit) to become a servant leader.

### PRINCIPLES OF SERVANTHOOD

1. Success in God's Kingdom is not based on our ability, talents or strength but on servanthood as defined in God's Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6)
  - A. Matthew 20:25-28; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:5-11
2. Serving in the Body of Christ is actually \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Colossians 3:23-24 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

3. Serving is an act of obedience and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Romans 12:1 *Present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*
- B. Matthew 4:10 (Jesus speaking to Satan) *You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*

## SERVITUDE OR SERVANTHOOD?

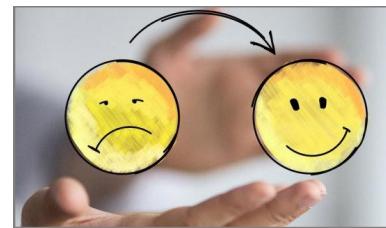
*Servitude* is when serving becomes pressure-driven, seeking approval and acceptance more than worshiping Jesus in loving obedience. On the other hand, *servanthood* is motivated by a love for the one being served, in this case, Christ and His Church.

1. **Servitude is...**

- A. Serving out of obligation, "I have to..."
- B. Having the attitude that it's not their job, doing the minimum to get by.
- C. Motivated by what others see, serving to please others.
- D. The result is drawing attention to self.

2. **Servanthood is...**

- A. Serving out of obedience, "I want to serve God."
- B. Motivated by what God sees, serving for an audience of One.
- C. Doing whatever it takes and going beyond expectations.
- D. The result is praise to God and directs attention to God.



3. **Biblical servanthood seeks the good and growth of others**, not their dependence. It empowers rather than rescues, calls people into responsibility, and knows when stepping back is as loving as stepping in. Love that creates dependency is not Christlike love. Jesus' service always moved people toward maturity.

- A. The great example in John 13:1-17 ...*So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?... For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*

## KINGDOM LEADERSHIP

1. **Jesus based effective leadership upon servanthood, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matthew 20:20-28 ...*but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*" (Mark 10:41-45)

- A. A true leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the external situation. — A.W. Tozer

B. Christ's leadership principles are different from those used by secular organizations.

- Worldly leadership in the church WILL bring strife because it is usually based on position and human abilities. Leadership in the church begins from a foundation of serving Christ, self-sacrifice, and originating from a humble, Spirit-led position.
- Biblical authority is submission with responsibility. Notice the Centurion's response to Jesus in Matthew 8:5-10, *The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

2. **To serve is to be blessed.**

*John 13:3-17 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him... "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

A. Jesus, the Son of God in human form, served the disciples by washing their feet! He could do this because He knew His identity in the Father, He knew where He had come from, and where He was going.

- Foot washing was something the servant would do as guests entered the house. It was a very normal part of everyday life because everyone walked and their feet would be dusty.



B. We, too, can serve as the Holt Spirit leads, knowing that our identity is in being a son and daughter of the Lord, washed in His blood and filled with the Holy Spirit. When our identity is secure, we can serve others with a pure heart.

C. Jesus clearly stated that if we would "wash each other's feet" (serve others using the definition on page 2), we would be blessed.

3. **Leadership in the Kingdom is spiritual leadership.**

A. Spiritual leadership always begins with God's call. (Exodus 3:4; Joshua 1:6-9; Nehemiah 1; Isaiah 6:8; Jeremiah 1:1-10; Matthew 10:1-4)

B. Spiritual leadership is exercised through Spirit-filled people.

*Acts 6:1-7 ...Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;..." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

- Name the three leadership qualifications set by the Apostles in the previous Scripture.
- What was the result of this action?

C. Spiritual leadership reflects God's \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1 Peter 1:15-16 ...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (Moses' humility in Numbers 12:3)

D. Spiritual leadership is based on God's ways. As we begin to experience His names (lesson 1), we also begin to have an understanding of how He thinks and acts (His ways).

- Psalms 103:7 *He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel...*

E. The spiritual leader is not a hireling (John 10:11-14), a person who works purely for material reward and has no personal investment in the work apart from a salary. Instead, the motivation is to give his or her life away for the sake of empowering and maturing God's people.

- 1 Peter 5:2 *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;...*

F. The spiritual leader is courageous: the attitude which enables them to encounter difficulties with confidence in God's ability. (2 Chronicles 32:7-8; Nehemiah 4 and the rebuilding the wall under constant warfare)

G. The spiritual leader has a God-given vision: insight into spiritual matters and foresight to be able to guide Biblically and accurately. (Exodus 3:10; Proverbs 29:18)

H. The spiritual leader seeks wisdom: the ability to make the best use of knowledge, right judgment concerning spiritual and moral truth. (1 Kings 3:16-28; Colossians 1:9)

I. The spiritual leader is \_\_\_\_\_: the ability to wait upon the Lord and act in a proactive manner when everything dictates to act impulsively. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

J. The spiritual leader corrects and guides without being \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4. **The goal...**

Exodus 33:12-23 *Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." ...*

- A. Servant leadership is based upon loving God and loving His people.
  - Matthew 22:34-40 ... *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
  - 1 John 4:20 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*
- B. God called Moses to serve Him by \_\_\_\_\_ His people. (Exodus 33:12-14; Joshua 1:6; Isaiah 6:8; Ezekiel 22:30; Matthew 10:1)
- C. God's servant leaders do not lead in \_\_\_\_\_ but desire to lead through relationships of mentoring and partnership.
  - The "Jethro Principle" from Exodus 18:17-26, the Seventy in Numbers 11:16-17, and the Apostles in the early church in Acts 2:42-47.
  - The mentoring principles: Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Barnabas and Saul (then Paul and Barnabas), Paul and Timothy (and others).
- D. Proper stewardship of God's people is knowing that they belong to God.
  - 1 Peter 5:2-4 *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

## 5. The priority of servant leaders.

Acts 9:26-27 *And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

- A. The priority of servant leaders is not only to serve God's people in a leadership capacity but to equip them to take part in the work of the Kingdom. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
  - They bring others along on their journey.
  - They encourage them to discover their passion and God's purpose for their lives.
  - They assist them in that discovery and the transformational process.
- B. They identify emerging leaders who are filled with the Spirit, faith and vision. (Acts 9:26-30; 11:25-26; 13:1-3)
- C. They identify emerging leaders with the evidence of \_\_\_\_\_ and humility rather than human charisma and ability. (Luke 14:7-11; Acts 6:3)
- D. They look for \_\_\_\_\_ rather than social prominence, etc. (Acts 4:36-37)
  - Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. — Abraham Lincoln

- I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. — Martin Luther King Jr.

E. They train people who exhibit a willingness to learn and to put into action the things God is showing them.

F. The responsibility of the spiritual leader is to \_\_\_\_\_ leaders with the same heart and passion to serve Christ and His people.

- 2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

## 6. The servant leader and the “mind of Christ.”

A. Do you agree with this definition? “The servant is not greater than his Master,” in John 13:16 and 15:20 means that we don’t get a higher seat, softer life, or easier mission than Jesus, our call is to follow His example and share His cost.

B. In Philippians 2:5-11, we see that Jesus humbled Himself even to death on the cross in our behalf and was exalted to the Highest place.

*L*et this mind (the attitude of servanthood) be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



*Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

## ASSIGNMENT

1. If you haven’t already, choose one or two others in the class and form an accountability group and go over the handout.
2. Go through the worksheet, Digging Deeper (Matthew 20:20-28 and Mark 10:35-44) and answer all the questions.

Next week: **The Leader’s Integrity** | Scan the code to preview the lesson.



## DIGGING DEEPER

Read Matthew 20:20-28 and Mark 10:35-44 and answer the following questions on the back of the Weekly Journal.

1. What was the request of James and John?
2. Why do you think there seems to be a difference in the beginning of the story?
3. What was the motivation of the request?
4. What did this reveal about their character?
5. What was the response of the rest of the disciples?
6. What was Christ's response?
7. What are the key ideas taught by Jesus in this passage?
8. Give the purpose for authority from the following passages.
  - A. 2 Corinthians 10:8-9 and 13:10
  - B. Ephesians 4:11-12
  - C. 1 Peter 5:1-5
  - D. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
  - E. Acts 20:28-30
  - F. Galatians 6:1-5
8. Thoughts...