

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP – SESSION 6

Academy of Christian Discipleship

Introduction

Today's popular conceptions of strong leadership look very little like the leadership of Jesus. But remarkably, the most effective leadership we are seeing in today's workplace (both Christian and secular) looks quite similar to what we find in the way Jesus led. In other words, the ways in which Jesus so successfully led first century followers still work. The power of Jesus' leadership came from his proximity more than his pedestal, from his inquiries more than his orders, from his adaptability more than his rules, and from his love more than his authority. Whether you are a pastor or a line supervisor, the people you have been given to lead long for the kind of accessibility, interest, understanding and care with which Jesus led.

Jesus had an astonishing influence on his followers. In our first gathering, we will explore the thoughts, actions and attributes of Jesus from the perspective of his leadership. One of today's most popular hyperboles is "...to die for," often referring to chocolate! Apparently, Jesus' followers found him a leader and a savior "to die for" because from the Apostle Peter to the persecuted church today, followers of Jesus literally have given their lives for him. Jesus is a leader worth studying.

Jesus's Model of Ministry

Mindset - Philippians 2

Curvature - Philippians 2

Up and in

Down and out

Preparation - Luke 2

Actions - Luke 5

Affirm

Challenge

Unite

Embrace

Empower

Style

Paradoxical

Interrogative

Attributes - John 1

Homework

Week 1 – read one of the Synoptic Gospels with the intent of finding Jesus in the act of leading. Record what you find and add to the lists we covered in class.

Week 2 – read the Gospel of John with the intent of finding where Jesus asked questions when he could have simply given answers. Think about what would have been different if Jesus had told rather than asked.

Weeks 3 and 4 – go through the following PowerPoint looking for what is and is not Jesus-like in the leadership principles and practices presented:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/unssc/unpan021788.pdf>

Prayer Partner Questions:

1. Where does pride contaminate your leadership?
2. Where does pride contaminate your followership?
3. How do you want to lead more like Jesus, whether it be in the home or at work or at church or informally?

Spiritual discipline

Try at least once per day to reflect on a conversation by asking the question, “What did my curvature look like in that conversation?”

Project

Choose one of the actions or attributes of Jesus that you want to elevate in the way you provide leadership. Identify a time frame (for example, three days) in which you will actively embody that characteristic. Find an accountability partner with whom you will share your commitment and your success rate. Discuss with this person questions such as:

- Did I function any differently than normal?
- When I succeeded in reflecting this Jesus-like leadership, how did it feel?
- What was going on contextually that helped me?
- When I didn’t succeed in my goal, did I notice my shortcoming?
- Why did I revert to my normal way of functioning?
- How can I build this characteristic into a permanent part of my leadership?

We will discuss examples of how to succeed with this project at the end of our third session. May you be captive to the image of Jesus as you take on this project!

