

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 10:35-45.**
- B. A certain fable says; the frogs wanted a king so Jupiter threw a dog in there and the frogs jumped on him but found out they weren't going anywhere, so they asked for another leader and they sent a stork and he towered over them but soon there was a decrease in numbers of frogs because the stork was eating the frogs.
- C. This shows the two spectrums of leadership, the leader who allows the people to do anything they want to and the leader would eat the people.
- D. In my graduate work at EIU several years ago, I took a class on leadership. The textbook was over 1,000 pages and our assignment for the course was to read it all! Yet in all those examples of leadership it never mentioned the Bible's method of leadership--servant leadership.

I. TWO IMPORTANT PASSAGES.

- A. See Mk. 10:35-45.
 - 1. James and John thought the kingdom was pomp and splendor! They thought leadership is a matter of place and position. But Jesus said they must go through some preparation first. Jesus earned His right as a leader by a cup and a baptism, and so will James & John. They needed the school of pain, suffering, rejection, persecution, and the cross.
 - 2. What we have to remember is that when you're talking about leadership, being #1 is the next thing to zero! Beginning in 10:35, Jesus tells of His rules for true leadership are sacrifice and service, not pomp and position. Jesus is the model for this kind of leadership (see 10:45).
- B. See Lk. 22:14-27.
 - 1. After eating the LS the apostles got in a dispute as to who would be the greatest in the kingdom (22:24). How stupid to eat such a meal then argue over position! The word dispute actually means rivalry which is fondness of strife.
 - 2. In 22:25 Jesus calls worldly leaders by the title of "Benefactor." Jesus does not want the kind of leaders who feel like they're doing the people a service by leading. Jesus says that true leadership is service and not reclining only at table.

II. THREE THINGS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IS NOT.

- A. **It is not place or position.**
 - 1. The relationship between the elders; the elders and preacher; elders and deacons; elders and congregation; elders and committees; is not a political power play. An elder should never have to "pull rank" to exert his influence. Political power plays always bring rivalries. If we view leadership as place and position then we pick for our leaders those who are wanting to be served not those willing to serve.
 - 2. Former President Reagan's slogan on his desk was great, "We would be amazed at how much would be done, if we were not concerned about who gets the credit."
- B. **It is not an authoritarian attitude.**
 - 1. See Lk. 22:25 where J C talks about rulers who "lord it over them." To lord it, means to do what you want to do without any consideration of others and to make them "knuckle under."
 - 2. Servant leadership takes into consideration the wills and desires of others. Elders are to rule the flock, but not by lording their authority over the congregation (1Pet. 5:3).
- C. **It is not cultic control.**
 - 1. Take note of the last statement of Lk. 22:27, "But I am among as one who serves." A cult will follow their leader in every way, blindly imitating all things that leader does.

2. Jesus is different because His leadership means “washing feet” and getting down in the filth of the world to serve. The cult leader is always the proud individual.
 3. Worldly leaders(hip) acts like they are trying to control adults, while spiritual leaders(hip) acts like they are trying to serve children.
- D. The dread fear of usurping the Lord’s authority and leadership is a prime quality of being a good leader. The reluctance of a man to accept a leadership position may actually make him a good leader.

III. THE NT SAYS THAT GODLY MEN ARE TO BE THE LEADERS.

- A. Men are to be the spiritual leaders in the home and in the church:
1. Leadership in the home as a father (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; Heb. 12:9).
 (Eph 6:4) And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 (Col 3:21) Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.
 (Heb 12:9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?
 2. Leadership in the home as a husband (Eph. 5:22-24, 25, 28-29; Col. 3:19; 1Tim. 3:12; 1Pet. 3:7).
 (Eph 5:22-25) Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;
 (Eph 5:28-29) So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,
 (Col 3:19) Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.
 (1Tim 3:12) Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.
 (1Pet 3:7) You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
 3. Leadership in the church (1Cor. 11:3; 14:34; 1Tim. 2:11-12; Ti. 2:5; 1Pet. 3:5).
 (1Cor 11:3) But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.
 (1Cor 14:34) Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak. but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says.
 (1Tim 2:11-12) Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. **12** But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.
 (Titus 2:5) to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.
 (1Pet 3:5) For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.
- B. With leadership comes responsibility, more so than authority!

IV. JESUS' LEADERSHIP FOCUSED ON FIVE THINGS.

- A. This leadership needs to focus on five things:
1. **ON INDIVIDUALS.**
 Jesus focused on individuals. He spent time with the multitudes but His leadership focused on individuals, the apostles (Mk. 3:14-15). In Jn. 21, Jesus tells Peter 3 times, to be a leader of people. To tend my sheep is to serve as a leader. Quantity time is quality time.
 2. **ON THE SCRIPTURES.**
 Jesus says if one does not have an in-depth knowledge of the word--no leading capacity. John 5:39 shows that His qualifications were based in scripture (not on business skill or financial success). The scriptures bear witness of Him.

3. **ON CHRIST.**

The simple words, "Follow me" show the pattern of leadership for us. Paul told the Corinthians that the solving of all their problems was to follow himself as he followed X (Lk. 9:23; 1Cor. 11:1). **(Lk. 9:23)** And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

(1Cor 11:1) Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

4. **ON HIS PURPOSE (or REASON GOD SENT HIM).**

Jesus was to do the will of God, to accomplish what His father wants Him to do (Jn. 8:28; 17:4).

(Jn 8:28) Jesus therefore said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

(Jn 17:4) "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.

5. **ON THE CHURCH.**

The prayer of Jn. 17 is a leadership prayer. By Jesus building the body, the body can better do it function of the purpose God gave it, and that is to preach to the entire world. There is a great power in the local church.

B. Leaders in the home will focus on their family; both their physical and spiritual needs.

C. Leaders in the church will focus on their spiritual family; their spiritual needs.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Leadership means responsibility and servant-hood!

B. God has charged men to take the role of being the leader in the home and in the church.

C. Therefore, godly men will follow after the pattern of X, and be a servant-leader.

1. It is not place or position.

2. It is not an authoritarian attitude.

3. It is not cultic control.

D. Godly, servant leaders focuses on:

1. On individuals.

2. On the Scriptures.

3. On Christ.

4. On his purpose.

5. On the church.

E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.