

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 10:35-45**.
- B. Being willing to serve shows the fact we know what leadership is, but doing service without someone shows we don't know the whole picture of what leadership is.
- C. By in large we have confused leadership with eldership and they are two different principles. Possibly mutually exclusive?!
- D. Aesop fable says the frogs wanted a king so Jupiter threw a log 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. This shows the two spectrums of leadership, the leader who allows the people to do anything they want to and the leader who rather than feed the people eats the people.

I. TWO IMPORTANT PASSAGES.

- A. See Mark 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. JC earned His right as a leader by a cup and a baptism, and so will James & John. Need the school of pain, suffering, rejection, persecution and the cross.
 2. The 10 became indignant against James & John because they had not thought of asking! They want places #1 and #2 also! 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. JC is the model for this kind of leadership (see 10:45).
- B. See Luke 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 what 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. Leadership is not political power.
 1. The relationship between the elders, 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.
 2. Political power plays always bring rivalries. If we view leadership as place and position then we pick for our leaders those to be served, not those willing to serve.
 3. It is amazing that even before the church was organized, before the first preacher hired the church knew how to fight. The spirit of Diotrephes will ruin the work of the church (3Jn. v9).
 4. President Reagan's slogan on his desk is great, "we would be amazed at how much would be done, if we were not concerned about who gets the credit".
- B. Leadership is not an authoritarian attitude.
 1. See Lk. 22:25 where JC 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. Leadership takes into consideration the wills and desires of others without bowing down to as to compromise their authority. Elders are to rule but not by lording their authority over the congregation (1Pet. 5:1-4; esp. v3).
- C. Leadership 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 in all things that leader does.
 2. Jesus is different because leadership that means "foot washing" and getting down in the filth of the world to serve is not cultic. The cult leader is always the proud individual. Worldly leadership acts like they are trying to control adults while spiritual leadership acts like they are trying to serve children. Or, one is an adult controlling adults while the other is children serving children (Mt. 18:3,4).
 3. 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 will make him a good leader.
 4. Jesus is the best example of leadership. In the 4 gospel accounts we see only 34 days of the 3.5 years of Jesus life. Unbelievable! The gospel of John only 18 days. The reason is that the gospels were not written to give a blow by blow account of His life, but rather to show His duty, His manhood and His example. All the HS needed was 34 days of Christ's life to do that. If those 34 days won't convince you of those three things then 3.5 X 365 days won't either.

III. JESUS' LEADERSHIP FOCUSED ON FIVE THINGS.

- A. Individuals.
JC focused on individuals. He spent time with the multitudes but His leadership focused on individuals (Mark 3:14,15). In John 21, Jesus tells Peter 3 times to be a leader of people. Feed or tend my sheep is to serve as a leader. Paul focused on Timothy in this way.
- B. 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. The scriptures bear witness of Him, not business or financial success.
- C. On Himself.
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 (Jn. 21:19; 1Cor. 11:1).
- D. On His Purpose (or the Reason God sent Him).
Jesus was to do the will of God, to accomplish what His father wants Him to do (Jn. 17:4; 8:28).
- E. On the body of Disciples.
The prayer of John 17 is a leadership prayer. By Jesus building the body, the body can better function in carrying out the purpose God gave it. That purpose is to preach to all the world. There is a great power in the local church.
- F. Jesus can go home to heaven and not worry about the great commission being executed because He focused on individuals, the scriptures, on Himself, on His purpose and the body of believers. Any missionary, preacher, elder or teacher can do these 5 things for 3 years and then leave knowing the work will not suffer.

IV. NEW TESTAMENT LEADERSHIP IS THREE THINGS.

- A. Nurture. Sharing, being gentle, fond affection (1Th. 2:7-9).
- B. Example. See 1Th. 2:10, which is opposite of which of (v1-6) that they didn't do.
- C. Fatherhood. See 1Th. 2:11-12, encouraging, comforting, imploring (or urging) to do right.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The next lesson in this series will deal with some of the principles of NT leadership.
- B. Heaven's invitation is still open, always is.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.