

SERVANT LEADERSHIP Matthew 20:25-28

1. Help Develop your Followers to their Full Potential

- Every member of the Body of Christ must function together for the Church to become built up to full maturity, Eph.4:11-16. Train & build up a team, so that *together* you will hit the mark!
- Our followers- our spiritual children– can multiply what we can accomplish, 2 Tim.2:2. Most of our inheritance comes through our children (natural & spiritual): Abraham was told he and his descendants would own the Promised Land...but in his lifetime he only owned a cemetery!
- Some leaders become jealous & defensive when someone starts to rise to their level, 1 Sam. 18:7-11. Barnabas became great because he was not like this, Acts 13:2 & 13
- Some churches hinder women from developing their ministry potentials. Paul was not like that, Rom.16:1-7. Women are often 60%-70% of the church members, and are very important!

2. Let your Leadership be People-Oriented, not Task-Oriented!

- Ministry is all about loving God and people. Successful ministry is building up people, not necessarily building up statistics (that is building a business, not a ministry)
- Be people oriented, not task oriented. Sometime a leader can become like a slave-driver who quickly accomplishes much, but ends up losing the love & support of his followers. Solomon and his son were like that, 1 Kings 12:1-4 & 12:13-16.
- Invest your time, effort, and finances in people, not just “projects.” People live forever, projects turn into dust. Solomon’s great kingdom was completely gone 5 years after he died: 10 of the 12 tribes split off shortly after Solomon’s death, then in the 5th year of his son’s reign the king of Egypt invaded and took away all the gold & treasures that Solomon had gathered, 1 Kgs.14:26
- We are called to have fruit that shall remain, Jn. 15:16. Eternal results, not fast results! Christ avoided many things that could have brought fast results to His ministry, Luke 4:5-12, Jn.6:15, & Mat.26:53. Christ’s ministry looked like a failure when He died. But what He planted later brought forth a mighty harvest!

3. Lead By Example (Do Not Ask Others to Do What You are not Willing to do Yourself)

1 Cor. 11:1 “Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1 NIV)

“Join with others in following my example and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.” (Phil. 3:17 NIV).

Some leaders require their followers to do hard things which they will not do themselves.

a) Do not ask others to sacrifice (money or time) unless you will lead the way, Neh.5:8-12.

- Some leaders give very little financial support to their helpers– but they have plenty for themselves! If the people sacrifice, you should sacrifice also. If their small salary or love offerings leaves them with a heavy burden, you should share that burden with them, Mat.23:4. Show your care and concern, and prove the Lord by your giving, Lk.6:38.
- If you encourage others to give a sacrificial offering, you lead it by your own good example!
- If you ask others to work long hours for a special need, you do the same!

b) Lead the way in accomplishing dangerous or disagreeable tasks, Neh.4:21-23.

4. Build Your Staff and Followers into Becoming a Family, Prov.29:21

Teach your staff and followers how to develop good relationships, by your having the best of relationships with them yourself! Many people suffer hurts from their childhood that they bring into their ministries. Become a healer, Lk.4:18.

- Many of our own insecurities, jealousies, anger, etc. can be traced back to problems in our family when we were young & forming our social skills (but some of our strengths also come from there). The Prophet Samuel did not do well in training his own children, but his “father” Eli did not provide him a good example.
- Some single Christians do not know how to properly relate to the opposite sex, because they did not have brothers or sisters in their own family.
- A person with a pattern of poor relationships must focus on developing their social skills to become a good leader.
- The Biblical pattern of full spiritual maturity is to become a spiritual father or mother, 1 Jn.2:13, Jud.5:7. Or if you are a younger leader, start by becoming a Cuya or Ate to those you lead.
- Have staff meetings, prayer times, and fun activities also!

5. Keep Getting Closer to God, to be Able to Impart More to Your Followers

We can only give to others as much as we have received from God, Acts 3:6.

This can include:

A) Godly Character, John 17:19. We impart our lives into those who follow us.

King Solomon spent 7 years building the house of God, but 13 years building his own house—this mixture was imparted to the future of his kingdom, which had 7 good kings & 13 bad kings!

B) Prophecies & Guidance from God, 1 Timothy 1:18. When we hear from God for our followers, they become stronger and more effective.

C) Anointings & Gifts of the Holy Spirit: We can see how spiritual gifts and anointings can be imparted in the lives of Moses & Joshua (Deuteronomy 34:9) and Paul & Timothy (2 Timothy 1:6).

CONCLUSION: If we want to become the best of leaders, we need to learn how to best serve and build up the people that God entrusts to us. Our Lord Jesus spent years training his disciples to become effective servants of God (Acts 4:13) and gave His life to prepare a victorious, glorious people of God. We can do no better than to follow His example!