

## **Lecture 5 : Leaders are willing to pay the price**

### **People of vision happily pay the price.**

#### **► Introduction – The road to becoming a leader.**

The road to becoming a leader is like the road to becoming a disciple. It is a road of suffering and glory. There can be no maturity without passing through a process of suffering. Vision grows with suffering. Suffering gives birth to purity. Suffering clarifies vision and breathes life into it. Resurrection follows the cross. Suffering is no longer a curse or a source of sadness, but a blessing and a joy. The road to becoming a true disciple lies in denying oneself and shouldering one's cross to follow Jesus, our Lord. (Matthew 16:24)

#### **1. People who deny themselves and follow.**

First, a leader is someone who denies himself.

When you become a Christian, you become a new creation. The old self dies and a new self is born. If the self does not die, a new self can not be born. Without denying the old self, the new self can not be put on.

A leader is someone struggles against himself. A person who conquers self can conquer the world.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24)

One can not live without dying first. Hammering the old self to the cross is the basis for the start of a Christian's life. The road to following the Lord begins from that point.

#### **2. People who take up their cross and follow.**

Second, a leader is someone who takes up his cross.

Jesus took up the cross for the entire human race. The cross that Jesus took up was a cross that no person could shoulder. It was a cross that only God could bear. But there is a cross that people are capable of bearing. It is a cross that can only be shouldered by someone who has hammered his old self to the cross. That cross is used to bear another person's burden.

A true leader does not live for selfish reasons. In the manner of Jesus' sacrifice, he happily takes up the cross that he has been entrusted with.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans

12:1)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

Leadership emerges with a leader's sacrifice, commitment and death to self.

### **3. People who follow with a pure heart.**

Third, a biblical leader is a man who follows Jesus with a pure heart. People who follow Jesus are characterized by a life of self-denial and happy taking up of the cross. There is one more thing. It is the surrender of all except Jesus.

Most people fail because they serve two masters. A follower of Jesus is single-hearted in his devotion. There is nothing more important than holiness and purity in following Jesus.

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. (Matthew 6:24)

A true leader does not serve two masters. Character is more important than ability and purity is more important than spiritual gifts. A person who changes masters too often, ends up nowhere. It is like uprooting and replanting a tree often.

### **4. Leadership appears when I am weak and poor.**

A leader is not exclusively the right of a strong man, a hero, or a star. A true leader is someone who is, despite his weakness and unattractive exterior, captivated by God's ability.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Leadership is not human strength. It has to do with renewing, restoring, and strengthening my weak, poor, and sick self with His strength.

### **5. When do leaders face crisis in leadership?**

1. Crisis in leadership emerges with pride.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)

No enemy is as fearsome as pride. Leadership is undermined not by hardship, persecution, or crisis, but by pride.

2. Crisis in leadership emerges with a lack of morals and ethics. Criticism does not weaken leadership. It is more dangerous for a leader to lack morals and ethics.

3. Crisis in leadership emerges when prayer is lacking. Having no work to do is not a crisis. Not praying is a crisis. Crisis in leadership emerges when one is spiritually insensitive.

4. Crisis in leadership emerges when purity is lost. It emerges when leadership loses its original focus. Corruption is like a silent gunshot.