

Lecture 6 : The Serving Servant Leader

The Serving Servant: Jesus Christ

► Introduction/ Jesus Christ who came to serve

Jesus Christ did not come to be served by man but to serve man, and he came to give his life as a redemptive sacrifice for many people. Here lies all the secrets to spiritual leadership power. The perfection of the true leader is found in serving and the attitude of a servant.

Jesus washed his disciples feet and loved them to the very end. Sacrifice and humility along with obedience and devotion are a leader's (-----).

1. The Serving Servant

The image of a true Christian leader can be found in, first of all, that of a servant. A leader is not one who rules over others but rather one who serves others; a leader is not the image of a master but that of a servant. The model for this is Jesus Christ.

In Mark 10:45, Jesus talks about his purpose in coming to the world.

“For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

In Philippians 2:6–9 it says,

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

The true picture of Jesus is that of a servant who suffers much pain. He bore that pain for us although he was without sin.

... because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.* (1Peter 2:21–23).

The true leader is one who, although he is unfairly treated and forced to take on pain for others, is still able to lead. He is a servant, a slave, and a helper.

2. Good Shepherd

The second picture of a true leader is that of a good shepherd.

The good shepherd leads his sheep to rest in green pastures and leads them beside pleasant waters. (Psalms 23:1-2). There is no shortage in sheep to follow behind a good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep that follow him.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.* (John 10:11-12).

The false leader, however, uses the sheep that follow him as a shield to himself and uses them; he finds his joy in money and pleasure. After he uses them, he just throws them away.

Most leaders of the world are willing to sacrifice those that follow them to propagate their own cause. They say that minor things must be sacrificed sometimes for the sake of the greater gain. But the shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, protects his sheep, and leads them to green pastures and still waters.

The leader is a person who has the qualities of the shepherd and will never sacrifice that role.

3. The Faithful Steward

The third picture of a true leader is that of the faithful steward.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.* (1Peter 4:10).

The faithful steward is not a master but a manager. What’s required of a manager is honesty, sincerity, wisdom, and diligence. Also, faithfulness. The true leader has these qualities of a steward. He is God’s steward. He is one that doesn’t live for himself but one who lives for God.

The steward says nothing. He does what he’s told to do. He has no grudges nor complaints. There is also nothing false in him. From morning to night he tries his best.

“Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless * not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, no pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.* (Titus 1:7-9).

This overseer is the spiritual leader we are speaking of..

4. Jesus, The Washer of His disciples feet

In John 13:3–15, Jesus washed the feet of his beloved disciples. This was shortly before the time when he would have to walk to his death.

“so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples* feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.* (vs. 4–5).

After Jesus had washed his disciples feet, he states in verse 14 “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.*

Jesus washed his disciples feet as Lord and Teacher. This is Jesus* Discipleship and Leadership.

In Mark 10:45 Jesus says “For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death– even death on a cross!* (Philippians 2:6–8).

Here we are able to see the picture of Jesus* sacrifice and humility along with his obedience and devotion. This is the picture of Jesus* leadership.

5. Guidelines (?) the leader must continually think about

Arm yourself with a holy and pure heart.

Continually examine if the vision you have received is from God.

Consider people before the work you have to do, and consider God before people.

Always look at the big picture but always work within its smaller parts.

Learn how to deal with crisis, and employ that crisis somehow.

Learn how to work with people with problems.

Find out what your spiritual gifts are and work according to those gifts.

If possible, do even the work that you could do alone with others.

Become a leader who raises other leaders and one who is able to recognize other leaders.

Always choose the side which suffers loss and complete your work well.

Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.

Fasten your waist with humility and be filled with the Spirit.

6. The leader needs wisdom, courage, and faith

- * The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

First Chronicles 5:8(?)/ Matthew 5

Think of the Wisdom of Solomon.

The wisdom of Jesus is above that of Solomon.

If you love and fear God then wisdom comes.

When you think of work for God then he gives you wisdom.

When God gives you wisdom, people are joyful and happy.

When God gives you wisdom all your problems are easily solved.

When God gives you wisdom your enemies flee from you and disaster avoids you.

When God gives you wisdom people come looking for you.

When God gives you wisdom people bring things to you.