

*"...because as he is, so are we in
this world." 1 John 4:17b*

**LEARNING
TO
LEAD
LIKE**

20 principles of leadership

JESUS

Next Generation Leaders for Christ

Bruce R. Edwards

Learning To Lead Like Jesus

20 principles of leadership

Pastor Bruce R. Edwards

LEARNING TO LEAD LIKE JESUS

Copyright © 2025
by Bruce R. Edwards

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing, 2025

ISBN 979-8-89546-431-1

All Scripture quotations contained herein, unless otherwise noted,
are the New King James Version of the Bible.
Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers

www.bruce-edwards.com

CONTENTS

PREFACE	Page 6
INTRODUCTION	Page 8
WHAT IS LEADERSHIP	Page 10
JESUS OUR EXAMPLE	Page 12
JESUS THE GREATEST LEADER.....	Page 14
20 PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP	
• PRINCIPLE 1– Leading with servanthood.....	Page 18
• PRINCIPLE 2 – Leading with character	Page 21
• PRINCIPLE 3 – Leading with vision	Page 27
• PRINCIPLE 4 – Leading with Compassion	Page 32
• PRINCIPLE 5 – Leading with Team	Page 35
• PRINCIPLE 6 – Leading with Mercy.....	Page 46
• PRINCIPLE 7 – Leading with Perseverance.....	Page 55
• PRINCIPLE 8 – Leading with Prayer.....	Page 62
• PRINCIPLE 9 – Leading with Accountability....	Page 71
• PRINCIPLE 10 – Leading with Authenticity.....	Page 75
• PRINCIPLE 11 – Leading with Encouragement...	Page 80
• PRINCIPLE 12 – Leading with Love	Page 85
• PRINCIPLE 13 – Leading with Flexibility.....	Page 90
• PRINCIPLE 14 – Leading by Delegation	Page 95
• PRINCIPLE 15 – Leading by Developing Leaders	Page 101
• PRINCIPLE 16 – Leading by the Spirit	Page 107
• PRINCIPLE 17 – Leading with Humility	Page 113
• PRINCIPLE 18 – Leading with Hope	Page 117
• PRINCIPLE 19 – Sacrificial Leadership	Page 120
• PRINCIPLE 20 – Leading by Faith	Page 123
HOW TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER	Page 132
CLOSING THOUGHTS	Page 135
ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	Page 136

"Try diligently to present yourself to God approved, as a worker who need not be ashamed, who handles the word of truth accurately. " 2Timothy 2:15

PREFACE

In the hustle of our modern world, leadership often becomes synonymous with power, strategy, and influence. Yet, amidst these definitions, there exists a timeless example of leadership that transcends cultures, epochs, and paradigms – the leadership of Jesus Christ.

Imagine standing by the shores of Galilee, where a carpenter-turned-rabbi gathered a group of fishermen, tax collectors, and ordinary people. He didn't promise them riches or political power. Instead, He offered them a transformative journey of the heart, teaching them through actions more than words, leading with a humility that defied the norms of His time.

It is this profound example that has inspired me throughout my journey of over four decades in ministry and business, leading a vibrant community of over 15,000 individuals. I have seen firsthand the transformative power of leadership when rooted in humility and character, principles exemplified by Jesus Himself.

Learning to Lead Like Jesus - 20 Principles of Leadership is more than a mere exploration of leadership techniques; it is a heartfelt challenge to leaders everywhere. Inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus, we delve into how He navigated challenges, empowered His followers, and ultimately changed the course of history.

Through these pages, we uncover how Jesus, arguably the greatest leader of all time, demonstrated principles that are as relevant today as they were two millennia ago. From servant leadership to vision casting, from compassion to courage, each chapter unveils a facet of leadership illuminated by His life.

My goal is simple yet profound: to equip leaders with practical insights that will not only enhance their effectiveness but also nurture a leadership style that reflects the heart of Christ. Whether you lead a team of ten or oversee an organization of thousands, the principles outlined here are designed to help you inspire, guide, and empower others to discover their true potential.

Join me on this journey of discovery and transformation. Together, let us embrace the challenge to lead with humility, integrity, and unwavering compassion – qualities that define true leadership, modeled perfectly by Jesus Christ.

May this book inspire you to become the leader you were destined to be, guiding others toward a life of purpose, fulfillment, and abundant grace.

Warm regards,

Pastor Bruce

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a journey that will change the way you see leadership forever. Whether you realize it or not, you are a leader. You may not have a title, a corner office, or a fancy business card, but if you're influencing someone, you're leading. And from a Christian perspective, leadership isn't just important—it's essential.

I believe the success of any group, organization, business, church, and even family depends on leadership. John Maxwell, a well-known teacher in the field of leadership puts it this way, "Everything rises or falls on leadership."

I am challenging each of us as Christians, to step up to become leaders who lead with integrity, purpose, and compassion. The world is in desperate need of Godly leaders who are not only authentic followers of Christ but are committed to becoming leaders that lead like Jesus.

In the chapters ahead, we'll unpack the core elements of Jesus' leadership style. We'll look at how He built and nurtured relationships, how He communicated vision and inspired others, and how He navigated challenges with grace and wisdom. Each principle we explore is designed to help you lead more effectively and authentically in your context.

Leading like Jesus is not about perfection; it's about progression. It's about making intentional choices to serve, to love, and to lead with the heart of a shepherd. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting on your leadership journey, this book will provide you with practical insights and inspiration to lead with excellence and impact.

You will be learning what it truly means to lead like Jesus, not just in theory, but in practical, everyday actions. You will learn about 20 key principles of leadership exemplified by Jesus. Jesus didn't just tell us how to lead; He showed us. His life was a masterclass in leadership—one that we can learn from every day.

Imagine a world where leaders serve others, where decisions are made with wisdom and humility, and where every action reflects the love of Christ. That's the kind of leadership we're aiming for.

So, let's dive in together. Let's discover how to lead like Jesus, creating a ripple effect of positive change in our families, workplaces, and communities. Let's embrace the call to lead with purpose, humility, and a heart full of love. Welcome to the journey of leading like Jesus.

“To lead like Jesus means to lead with love,
compassion, and humility.”

Lead Like Jesus

“True leaders listen more than they speak.”

Lead Like Jesus

“Leadership is about having a vision and
inspiring others to share in that vision.”

Lead Like Jesus

“The best way to lead is by serving others.”

Lead Like Jesus

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP

First, let's examine what real leadership is. Leadership is about guiding and inspiring others toward a common goal. Leadership is important because it creates direction and focus. Without leadership, a group of people might not know what to do or how to do it. Leaders help to set goals, solve problems, and keep everyone motivated. This is crucial in any setting, whether it's at work, in a community project, in the church, in a small group, or even within a family. Good leadership ensures that everyone is working together harmoniously and efficiently, leading to better results and a more positive environment for everyone involved.

Effective leadership transcends traditional hierarchies; it is about inspiring trust, fostering collaboration, and empowering others to achieve collective goals. Leadership is not static; it evolves and adapts to changing circumstances and contexts. A true leader understands the importance of continuous growth and learning, both personally and professionally.

Peter Drucker states, "The only definition of a leader is someone who has followers."

John Maxwell states, "Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less."

President Dwight Eisenhower said, "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

Pastor Myles Munroe teaches, "Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by passion, generated by vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose."

President John Quincy Adams stated, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."

Author Stephen Covey writes, "Effective leadership is putting first things first. Effective management is discipline, carrying it out." --*Stephen Covey*

Leadership is a popular subject with all kinds of people sharing their ideas, thoughts, and theories. Most are from a world and secular perspective. While many of the concepts are good and worth considering our focus and approach is one from a Biblical perspective.

Leadership from a Biblical viewpoint is deeply rooted in faith and service. Biblical leadership also involves seeking wisdom and guidance from God. Proverbs 3:5-6 advises, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*" A leader who follows this principle relies on God's wisdom rather than their own, ensuring that their decisions align with divine guidance.

Biblical leadership is characterized by integrity and righteousness. Leaders are called to be just and fair, as highlighted in Micah 6:8, which states, "*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" The epitome of Biblical leadership is modeled by Jesus. To get the best understanding of what leadership is and how to lead effectively is to learn it from Jesus.

JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

What role models have you had in your life? I imagine you've looked up to parents, teachers, actors, sports personalities, employers, and others. Good role models are hard to come by. Our media-crazed culture is inundated with worship and praise for celebrities, professional athletes, and pop culture icons who have often modeled a life involved with drugs, illicit sexual behavior, or corruption. Many of which have disappointed us and let us down.

Did you know that there is a role model who will never let you down, forsake, or forget you? I am talking about the Son of God, Jesus Christ! There is nothing wrong with having role models, and there are many other great men and women now and throughout history who serve as positive influential examples for us and our children to look up to, but Jesus is the epitome of a great role model.

As Christians, we are followers of Christ and as such, we are to become more Christlike as we come to know Him more. The first priority for any person is to know Jesus. Then once a person receives Christ as their Lord and Savior, they should begin the process of becoming more like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says we all are *“being changed into his (Jesus) likeness”* and 1 John 2:6 tells us, *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”*

Romans 8:29 tells us God has predestined His people to be *“conformed to the image of His Son”*: that is, to become like Jesus. This is what predestination means. It is not about certain people being predestined to be saved or not saved it is about all believers being predestined to become like Jesus. God's plan has always been for you to become like Jesus. It was God's plan from the very beginning, even before Adam sinned.

Most of us have spent a lot of time trying to determine what we want to do in life, but God is far more interested in who we are than what we do. You're not taking your career to heaven. You are taking your character.

This is why Jesus is to be our example; He is the one role model we all should have. In fact, He is the perfect role model. Jesus is the only perfect human being who ever lived. He was God in human form and lived a perfect life. Jesus showed us exactly what it means to be fully human. We are to walk like Jesus walked, we are to model Him in all His ways; In His attitude, actions, prayers, worship, speaking, giving, loving and caring for others, commitment, faithfulness, obedience, etc., and in “**leadership**”. He is the greatest leader to ever live!

***“I have given you an example to follow.
|Do as I have done to you.”***

John 13:15

THE GREATEST LEADER

Jesus was the greatest leader this world has ever seen. He came to earth in very humble beginnings and after 30 years living behind the scenes rose to a place of leadership, and in three short years of ministry, he took twelve unqualified men and developed them into a team that has changed the course of history.

Jesus was a great leader in so many ways including knowing who He reported to (Father God), and He made sure he fulfilled his boss's expectations. Jesus kept in close contact with his Father. He said again and again he always did what pleased his Father and spoke what the Father had taught him.

In John 7:18 Jesus said, *“Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth ...”*

Jesus is not only the greatest leader ever, but the Bible also presents Jesus as the greatest ever period.

- ***Jesus is greater than all creation.*** “All things have been created through him and for him” (Colossians 1:16).
- ***Jesus is greater than Abraham.*** Abraham was and still is one of the most respected people in all of history. Once, as Jesus was talking to the Jews about their lineage, they asked Him, “Are you greater than our father Abraham?” (John 8:53). Jesus’ answer was shocking to them: “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad. . . . Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:56, 58).
- ***Jesus is greater than Jacob (Israel).*** This was the question the woman at “Jacobs well” asked Jesus, “Are you greater

than our father Jacob?” (John 4:12). Jesus’ answer was yes because of the living water.

- ***Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3)***
- ***Jesus is greater than Solomon. (Matthew 12:42)***
- ***Jesus is greater than Jonah. (Matthew 12:41)***
- ***Jesus is greater than John the Baptist. (John 3:16)***
- ***Jesus is greater than the temple. (Matthew 12:6)***
- ***Jesus is greater than the Sabbath.*** Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:8)
- ***Jesus is greater than the church.*** He is the Head of the church, which is His body. (Col. 1:18)
- ***Jesus is greater than the angels. (Hebrews 4:1)***
- ***Jesus’ name is greater than all other names. (Phil. 2:9)***

Jesus was and is the greatest ever. When we think about all the things Jesus taught, we often remember His moral teachings, His prayers, all of the parables He told, His declarations of divinity, and His descriptions of being born again. But we don’t remember or realize how much Jesus spoke about leadership and how His followers can become better leaders.

Jesus showed us how leadership is all about people –

- Leadership begins and ends with relationships.
- Leadership values all people.
- Leadership uses (includes) people.

Jesus included people in the work rather than merely using them for the work. He could have snapped His fingers and healed everyone, fed everyone, and met every need in a moment. This is huge! Instead, He included imperfect people to participate in the process:

- The feeding of 5000 included the disciples (Matt. 14:19).
- He sent the apostles out two by two (Mark 6:7ff).
- Peter, James, and John witnessed special miracles (Mark 5:37; 14:33; Luke 18:51).
- In distress in Gethsemane, Jesus requested others to stay with Him (Matt. 26:36).

People follow leaders they can connect with; they can have a relationship with. Whether it be your partner, your children, or your employees, they will contribute to your vision to the extent that you value and love them.

Jesus also gave us 3 essentials for effective Godly leadership.

1. **He Warned Us that Leaders Should Not Misuse or Abuse Their Power.** *“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. It must not be like that among you...” (Matthew 2:25-26a)*
2. **We Should Not Imitate the World’s (secular) Ways of Leadership.** This clearly taught us not only about leadership but about our lives in all areas. Romans 12:1 it tells us *“Not to be conformed to this world”*. In 1 John 2:15, we are told, *“to not love the world or things of the world”*. Jesus tells James and John in Mark 10 that his style of leadership stands in stark contrast to the world’s. He teaches leadership is about serving and adding value, not getting perks.
3. **Lead According to Key Values.** Jesus was a principled centered leader. He taught and lived by key principles or core values. He embodied values like 1) Go the second mile; 2) Bless those who curse you; 3) Be the light of the world; 4) Build on a solid foundation; and 5) Do not worry.

Jesus is the greatest leader. He revolutionized what it means to be a leader. His approach to leadership was so radically different from how the religious leaders of the time lived their lives that he amazed the people around him and drew many to him. But the way Jesus led is often countercultural. Jesus says that the last will be first, and a leader will give his life for others, not lord over them.

To be the best and most effective leader we can be, we want to learn to lead like Jesus. There are many leadership principles that Jesus demonstrated from how He chose his leadership team to the way He served them, and ultimately to how the Church was launched.

The following 20 Principles of Leadership that Jesus modeled for us I believe will go a long way to help us “Learn How to Lead Like Jesus”.

True leadership is not measured by how
many followers you have,
But by how many leaders you create.
Lead Like Jesus

PRINCIPLE 1

LEADING WITH SERVANTHOOD

The first leadership principle we can learn from Jesus is Servanthood. All other leadership principles feed on this principle. If we are to lead like Jesus, we need to learn what *it* means to be a **TRUE SERVANT LEADER.**

Servant leadership puts the needs, growth, and well-being of followers (*those they lead*) first. In other words, these types of leaders adopt a serve-first mindset and prioritize their ministry, business, organization, family, and community over themselves.

Servant leadership is in direct contrast to most other types of leadership, such as autocratic leadership, transactional leadership, and bureaucratic leadership, all of which focus on structure, hierarchy, and a rigid give-and-take relationship.

Jesus came to serve.

Jesus was the epitome of a servant leader; He came to serve, not to be served.

"Even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

Jesus came to serve. Maintaining an attitude of service and treating others well were qualities Jesus sought to instill in all believers, but especially in those who sought to lead others. In a culture so focused on self-promotion and self-preservation, putting so much emphasis on serving rather than being served is highly countercultural, not to mention contrary to our sinful nature.

We need to have the same attitude as Jesus if we want to be a great leader. Keeping your focus on an attitude of service with those you guide will help create a culture and environment that exalts Christ over yourself, but you can also draw others outside your group to Christ.

Servants - The greatest in the Kingdom of God.

"It won't be like that between you. But whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:26-28**

"The greatest among you shall be your servant. He who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
Matthew 23:11

Jesus was the greatest leader of all time for many reasons, the most important: service!

In just 3 short years, he took the disciples, ordinary men with limited education, money, and capacity, and transformed them into leaders who would lead the Church, which would become the greatest influence worldwide. He accomplished this to a large extent because of how He served those He led. In John 13:15, Jesus sets the example of serving for us to follow. After washing His disciples' feet — an act of love, humility, and service — He encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another. Jesus lived a life of great humility. He showed us that serving others and humility go hand in hand.

Do you want to be great?

Being a great leader means becoming a servant of all. If we do, we can impact the world we live in as He did.

We are promised the ability to do even greater works than He did. (John 14:12). If He accomplished so much in three short years, imagine the possibilities that lie dormant, waiting for our leadership. I challenge you to pray and ask God what you can do to become a better leader in His Kingdom. He has placed you where you are for a reason. May He open our eyes to the possibilities around us!

The first and most important choice a leader makes is the choice to serve, without which one's ability to lead is severely limited. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

We make a living from what we get. We make a life for what we give.

"For though I am free from everything, I have become a servant to all, to gain more from them." 1 Corinthians 9:19

Leadership is not about being the most powerful person in the room, but about empowering others to be their best selves.
Lead Like Jesus

PRINCIPLE 2

LEADING WITH CHARACTER

Jesus is our leadership model. The vision of our Bible School is centered on teaching students how to lead like Jesus. There are many things about leadership we can learn from Jesus. He demonstrated many principles of leadership in His life and ministry here on the earth. We are unpacking 7 key principles of leadership that Jesus modeled for us. In this lesson, we are studying the leadership principle of **“Character”**. If we are going to learn to lead like Jesus, we need to lead with **“Character”**.

The most valuable component of leadership is not power, position, influence, notoriety, fame, talent, gifting, dynamic oratory, persuasiveness, intellectual superiority, academic achievement, or management skills. It is character. While all leadership principles feed on the principle of servanthood it is character that provides the foundation and legitimacy of our leadership.

Many influential, charismatic, and gifted leaders have failed because they lacked character. You don’t have to have charisma to be a leader. You do have to have character (credibility) because leadership is influence and if you don’t have credibility nobody is going to follow you. In this lesson, we want to talk about what it means to be a leader with “character”.

WHAT IS CHARACTER

We can best learn what Godly character is by studying the life of Jesus. He is the ultimate picture of leadership with character. By studying the life of Jesus, we learn being a leader of character means having integrity.

Integrity means being a person of honor, honesty, purity, and morality. Integrity isn't being honest 80 percent of the time. Partial honesty is dishonesty.

Godly character is a requirement for leadership because all leadership is based on trust. If people don't trust you, you can't lead them. Godly character can be defined as "the ability to discern God's right way from the wrong, and to voluntarily surrender one's own will to do what is right in God's sight and, with the help of the Holy Spirit resists what is wrong even under pressure and temptation."

C. S. Lewis, said, "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." It is also doing the right thing when everyone is watching, it is doing the right thing all the time, even when it may work to your disadvantage. Being a person of character is being honest and truthful.

JESUS SHOWS US

Throughout Scripture, Jesus not only taught us how to live with integrity, but He also showed us what Godly character is through His interactions with others. Jesus consistently remained true to God the Father and lived a life that was honoring Him. He never compromised who He was.

In the Gospels, we often find Jesus repeating the words, "Truly I say unto you..." In all these passages, it was the truth that Jesus was imparting to His people. When He said something was going to happen, it did come true. He always kept His word.

We see an example of this in Mark 14:13- 16 when Jesus told the disciples to go find a man who carrying a pitcher of water would show them the room where they could prepare for the Passover meal. The disciples went and found things exactly

the way Jesus said it would be! Jesus was very particular about keeping His word, and so must we. Jesus never wavered in his commitment to God's will, even when faced with intense persecution temptation, or suffering. In Luke 4:1-13 we read how the devil led Him into the wilderness for 40 days where he was tempted the same way we are. Jesus remained faithful to His mission and overcame the devil's temptations with the Word of God.

Jesus is a faithful and true witness to who He was, and to the One who sent Him. He was always honest and adhered to a set of values that were important to God. We need to stay faithful to who God has called us to be.

The leadership style of Jesus was neither about command and control, nor status and power. He did not teach techniques but grew "character" — a character centered on being Christ-like. He modeled Godly character and challenged his disciples to follow that example — to be like him.

DEVELOPING CHARACTER

Developing and cultivating Godly character as a leader is essential because our values and beliefs play into how we treat, speak, and act toward others. Leading from the inside out and having our hearts focused on the things above will help us successfully instruct and lead others.

It is important to understand that Biblical character and integrity are not achieved only by following a set of rules or a moral standard, it is through following Jesus Christ, the Author of moral standards. Being "followers of God" means that we have been "crucified with Christ" and now Christ lives in us where we can truly "walk in newness of life".

Everyone in this room is a leader and the purpose of this leadership camp is to help each of us to become a better leader – to lead more like Jesus. It is through Jesus Christ; that we are set apart and called to live as He modeled for us. Therefore, as Christians, it is important to reflect Jesus in all that we do, making His love and life known to all by the way we act and treat others. We only achieve real integrity and Godly character when we are completely aligned with the will of God, courageously exercise self-discipline, and are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

3 KEYS TO DEVELOPING CHARACTER

Here are 3 keys to helping you develop Godly character in your heart.

1. **Practice What You Preach.** To lead with character requires we align our lifestyle (what we do) with the things we teach and expect of others.

2. **Maintain Intimacy with Jesus.** This is a must for a Christian leader. We need to sustain a hunger to be in the presence of our Lord, to become more like Him, and to live in ways that grow our faith.

3. **Welcome Accountability.** We all have blind spots. It is easy to deceive ourselves and get off track. When we have godly, strong, honest people in our lives who speak the truth (even when it hurts), we have a much greater chance of maintaining a life of character, integrity, honesty, and purity.

5 PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER

1. **Character is from our heart** - “Above all, guard your heart for out of it flow the issues of life...” (Proverbs 4:23)

2. **Character is about our actions.** It is not just what we believe, but also what we do. Even the devil believes in Jesus. “Be doers of the word...” (James 1:22)
3. **Character stays focused on Jesus.** “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2)
4. **Character is governed by our conscience.** “I do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.” (Acts 24:16) The still, small voice inside of us speaks loudly when we cross its boundaries. We must build a biblical conscience and develop it conscientiously.
5. **Character has a currency - our word.** “...he will have whatever he says.” (Mark 11:23) Our word is our bond – we do what we say.

SUMMARY

It is important to understand that a leader's character will determine and influence how the knowledge, skills, and abilities they have will be applied. Your decisions as a leader will be based on your core beliefs, values, and worldviews, all of which are the basis of a person's character. This is why the principle of character is crucial to being a Godly leader.

The good news is Jesus is at work in us helping us become people of character. Being and becoming a leader of character is an ongoing process. God is at work in us shaping and molding us into what He created us to be. (Philippians 2:13) We are always a work in process. God is not finished with us. We are His workmanship. (Ephesians 2:10) He is creating in us “righteousness and true holiness”—His **character**!

Every day we should aspire to be more like Him. You might think you are living a life of integrity, but make sure to pay attention to the small things as well. Do you ever exaggerate, lie, fudge on tests/papers/reports? Do you gossip about classmates/friends behind their backs? Do you practice situational ethics (*making decisions based on the circumstances and not on the absolutes of God's Word*)? Evaluate your life and imagine how Jesus would behave in similar situations to ensure you are living with the highest of Godly character.

Even when we mess up or fail, God stays faithful. Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" So, no matter where you are in your journey of life or what might be happening be encouraged. God has a plan for your life. He is going to complete the good work he has begun in you. So, stay focused on Jesus and let Him work in you developing the character and integrity you need - to be the leader God has called you to be.

Leadership is not about being in charge.
It is about taking care of those in your charge.
Lead Like Jesus

PRINCIPLE 3

LEADING WITH VISION

Jesus Led with Vision

The life and leadership of Jesus provides us with many timeless lessons on leadership. One very powerful lesson is how to lead with vision and purpose. Understanding how Jesus led with vision and purpose provides valuable insights that help us become better leaders who are better prepared to lead.

The Vision of Jesus

Jesus' vision was both revolutionary and transformative. His vision was not about political power or temporal authority but about the establishment of the Kingdom of God—a realm characterized by justice, love, and peace. His vision was radical in scope and profound in its simplicity. Jesus envisioned a world where the last would be first, the meek would inherit the earth, and love would reign supreme. A leader's vision is a crucial component of effective and successful leadership. Let us take a look at what we can learn from Jesus about leading with vision.

1. Vision Needs to Be Clear

From the outset of his ministry, Jesus articulated this vision with clarity and conviction. In his inaugural sermon, he declared, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor*" (Luke 4:18-19). This proclamation was not just a mission statement; it was a vivid picture of the future Jesus sought to create.

As leaders, our vision needs to be clear and concise. A clear and well-defined vision acts as a North Star, guiding every decision and action. Write it down, refine it, and make it as tangible as possible.

2. Vision Needs to Be Compelling

Jesus' vision was compelling not just because of its content, but because of the way he inspired others to embrace and pursue it. He called individuals to follow him, inviting them into a transformative journey. His invitation was simple yet profound: "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people" (Matthew 4:19). This call was not just an invitation to observe, but to participate actively in the realization of the vision.

A compelling vision garners the attention of those you lead in a way that makes them believe in what you are doing and be willing to get involved and be part of helping accomplish the vision.

3. Vision Needs to be Communicated.

A vision, no matter how compelling, is useless if it's not communicated effectively. A leader's vision is only as effective as their ability to communicate it. Jesus excelled in conveying his vision through parables, teachings, and personal example. His use of parables—a storytelling method—was particularly effective. These stories, drawn from everyday life, illustrated profound spiritual truths in relatable ways. For instance, the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) encapsulated the vision of a society where love and compassion transcended ethnic and social boundaries.

Moreover, Jesus' communication was not limited to words. He embodied his vision through actions. His healing of the sick, befriending of outcasts, and challenge to the religious establishment were tangible demonstrations of the Kingdom of God in action. By living out his vision, Jesus made it real and attainable for his followers.

When we articulate our vision in a concise and inspiring way, we can rally our team to go after and accomplish the vision. When our vision is clear and clearly communicated it will foster focus,

ensuring everyone is working towards the same objectives and avoiding wasted effort.

4. Vision Provides Motivation

Jesus' approach to leadership was relational and empowering. He invested in a small group of disciples, teaching, mentoring, and challenging them to grow. His relationships were marked by trust, encouragement, and accountability. He empowered his followers by giving them responsibilities and authority, such as sending out the twelve apostles to preach and heal (Matthew 10). This empowerment was crucial in sustaining the movement even after his death.

Great leaders motivate and inspire those they lead by their actions. People follow leaders who walk the talk. Demonstrate your commitment to the vision through your actions. Leaders allow the vision to provide direction, foster passion, and empower those they lead. This is how vision will inspire and motivate those you lead.

5. Vision Provides Purpose

Jesus demonstrated an unwavering sense of purpose. His purpose was clear: to fulfill God's will and bring about the redemption of humanity. This purpose drove every aspect of his ministry, from his teachings and miracles to his sacrificial death on the cross.

Jesus' purpose was rooted in his identity and mission. He understood himself as the Messiah, the anointed one sent to save and redeem. This self-awareness gave him a profound sense of direction and determination. In the face of opposition, misunderstanding, and eventual crucifixion, Jesus remained steadfast. His purpose was not swayed by external circumstances but was anchored in a deep sense of divine calling.

Vision and purpose are always aligned. Vision is the destination/accomplishment/end game, and the purpose is the why. Vision is something you'd like to see happen or where you'd like to

be. The purpose is the reason for the vision. It answers “Why” you’re doing what you’re doing.

6. Vision Brings Provision

Jesus never lacked the resources He needed to carry out His vision. Why? The vision moved people to partner with Jesus and move God to provide all that Jesus needed.

As a leader, it is the vision God has given you that will cause people to partner with you and put you in the place for God’s provision.

7. Vision Influences Actions/Behavior

Your actions and behavior should line up with the vision. Effective leadership requires alignment between vision, purpose, and actions. Jesus exemplified this alignment throughout his ministry. His actions consistently reflected his vision and purpose. Whether he was teaching crowds, healing the sick, or confronting religious leaders, his actions were coherent with his overarching mission.

One of the most poignant examples of this alignment is found in the Garden of Gethsemane. As Jesus faced imminent arrest and crucifixion, he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). This moment of anguish revealed Jesus’ deep commitment to his purpose. Despite the personal cost, he chose to align his will with the divine purpose, demonstrating ultimate obedience and sacrifice.

As leaders, we need to evaluate and decide to take actions that are in line with the vision and will help us move toward the fulfillment of the vision and our purpose.

Summary

If we are going to learn to lead like Jesus, we need to learn to lead with vision like Jesus. As followers of Christ, we should be inspired and challenged to be leaders who pursue a higher vision and purpose, prepared to make a lasting impact on the world.

Leading with vision is the hallmark of Kingdom leadership. It is about seeing the future, communicating it passionately, inspiring and motivating others, aligning strategies and actions, overcoming challenges, and building a lasting legacy. Visionary leaders possess a unique ability to turn dreams into reality, guiding their teams to new heights of success and significance.

As John Maxwell puts it, "A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position." Leading with vision is not about the title or authority, but it is about leading with passion, conviction, and an unwavering commitment to a better future. It is this vision-driven leadership that transforms organizations, inspires people and leaves an indelible mark on the kingdom of God.

Jesus led with a clear vision of the Kingdom of God and a profound sense of purpose, which he communicated effectively through his teachings and actions. By leading by example, empowering his followers, aligning his mission with his actions, fostering a community, and being adaptable, Jesus demonstrated key principles of visionary leadership. His leadership not only transformed the lives of his immediate followers but also laid the foundation for a movement that has influenced billions of people throughout history.

Jesus Christ exemplified great leadership through his visionary approach, effective communication, empathy, empowerment of followers, strategic thinking, and ability to inspire lasting change. His leadership was not about wielding power but about serving others, fostering a vision of a just and compassionate world, and empowering individuals to reach their potential. As a result, Jesus remains a timeless model of exemplary leadership, whose principles continue to guide and inspire leaders across the globe.

PRINCIPLE 4

LEADING WITH COMPASSION

Jesus Christ is followed by millions around the world. He is the Son of God and at the heart of our faith as Christians. Jesus was undeniably a remarkable leader of compassion and love. Throughout his teachings, actions, and interactions with others, Jesus exemplified a profound commitment to spreading compassion, kindness, and unconditional love to all people.

First and foremost, Jesus consistently emphasized the importance of loving one's neighbor as oneself. (**Matthew 12:31**) He urged his followers to treat others with kindness and to extend compassion to those in need. Jesus taught that love should extend beyond social boundaries, breaking down barriers of race, ethnicity, gender, and social status. He demonstrated this by reaching out to the marginalized and ostracized, including tax collectors, sinners, and lepers, showing them care and acceptance.

Jesus's ministry was characterized by acts of compassion. He performed countless miracles, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and even raising the dead. These miracles were not merely demonstrations of his power, but rather expressions of his deep love and concern for those who were suffering. Jesus went out of his way to alleviate the physical and emotional pain of others, exemplifying the qualities of a true servant leader.

Matthew 9:36 – *“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*

Moreover, Jesus taught his disciples and followers to love their enemies, a radical concept at the time. (**Matthew 5:44**) He emphasized forgiveness and the power of reconciliation, encouraging his followers to overcome hatred and animosity with love and understanding. Jesus himself embodied this teaching when, while hanging on the cross, he prayed for forgiveness for those who crucified him, uttering the words, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

Jesus's compassion extended beyond the boundaries of his immediate followers. He consistently challenged societal norms, advocating for justice and equality. He stood up against the religious leaders who exploited their authority and showed a preference for the wealthy and powerful. Jesus spoke out against oppression and exploitation, lifting the voices of the marginalized and calling for fairness and compassion in all aspects of life.

Jesus's ultimate act of love and compassion was his sacrificial death on the cross. He willingly laid down his life to offer salvation and forgiveness to all of humanity, regardless of their shortcomings. This profound act of love demonstrated the extent of Jesus's compassion and his desire to reconcile humanity with God.

Jesus set the example now as leaders we are to follow. This means our leadership should be guided by compassion. Our attitude and decisions need to be motivated by love.

A common misconception that many people have about leadership is that you have to be intimidating and demand respect to be a great leader. Jesus demonstrated the opposite. He gained respect by leading with compassion.

As leaders, we need to follow Jesus' example and be moved with compassion as we lead. Here are 7 ways to show compassion as a leader:

1. Truly Care for people.
2. Actively Listen to others
3. Positively Encourage those you lead.
4. Show Genuine Gratitude.
5. Be Understanding
6. Have Genuine Concern for those you lead.
7. Put People First

Leading with compassion and love is all about motivation. As a leader, what you do, the decisions you make, and how you treat others should all be motivated by love, **NOT** greed, pride, revenge, power, self-exaltation, anger, jealousy, fear, or any other personal reason.

Jesus Christ's leadership was marked by an unwavering commitment to compassion and love. Through his teachings, actions, and ultimate sacrifice, he showed us the transformative power of love, calling upon us to extend compassion to others, break down barriers, and strive for justice and equality. As leaders, we are to be reflections of our Lord. When we are we will see the profound impact that love and compassion can have on our world.

***There is power in Compassionate Leadership.
That is Motivated by Love***

PRINCIPLE 5

LEADING WITH A TEAM

INTRODUCTION

Great leaders have a team, Jesus had a team. When you study world leaders, business leaders, sports leaders, church leaders, etc., those who have the greatest success develop a leadership team. Seldom is anything of significance achieved by an individual acting alone. Great Godly leaders realize that they can do nothing by themselves.

In John 5:30 Jesus said, *“I can of Myself do nothing.”*

If we truly want to accomplish more for God as a leader, we need to learn the importance of building a team. If we want to achieve a greater level of success in our lives, we need to learn how to develop and empower a leadership team.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- I. I grew up playing sports – football, basketball, baseball – all of them team sports. Obviously the better we played together as a team the better we did. I also played golf, most of the time by myself and I would usually shoot between 75 and 85.

However, there were times I would get 3 other golfers together and we would play as a team – in what was called “a 4-man scramble”. Together as a team, we would shoot 55 – 65, 20 to 30 shots better. That is significant in golf. (explain how golf works if need to)

The point being when you lead and work as a team you can accomplish more and be more effective than you can by yourself.

- II. Another example of the power of teamwork. Are horses. One horse (a draft horse) can pull about 6000 pounds. Working together two horses should be able to pull 12,000 pounds, right? ($6000 + 6000 = 12000$) **WRONG!**

If those horses are working together, they can actually pull 18,000 lbs. or more — over three times the load that one horse working alone can pull. This is synergy. It's a great illustration of the value and power of teamwork.

Synergy is the working together of two or more parts, where the combined effort is greater than the effectiveness of the individual parts alone. With proper teamwork we can create synergy where 2 plus 2 no longer equals 4, but much more. Creating synergy is just one benefit of team leadership. The Bible says, *“One puts a thousand to flight – two put ten thousand to flight”* (Dt. 30:17) These illustrations should help us see how the power of the **“principle of team”** can help us as leaders be more effective and productive.

The Bible School of Leadership is focused on training leaders to lead like Jesus. The **leadership principle of team** was used and modeled by Jesus. Jesus understood the importance of teamwork. He didn't try to do it alone; He built a diverse team and invested in their growth and development. He didn't keep all the power to Himself but shared it with His disciples, giving them the authority to preach, heal, and cast out demons (Mark 3:14-15). Jesus always believed in empowering and delegating, which multiplied His leadership through His

disciples. In building a team of twelve Apostles, He made working together to build the Kingdom of God an essential element of the Christian faith. We should try and do the same.

We can learn how to be better leaders by following Jesus's lead as we will know how to build a team that will help us be more effective as leaders and fulfill our call of leadership.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TEAM

If Jesus is our model, it only makes sense to look at how He selected and trained His team. We know Jesus built a team of 12 men to help Him carry out His mission on earth. These men would travel with Him for three years, and then He would commission them to continue to carry out that mission after His death.

But how did Jesus find and choose His team? Turn to Luke 6:12. Here we will read how Jesus chose the 12 apostles. This would be one of the most important decisions of Jesus ministry and He took it very seriously. The same is true for us. Who you choose and invite to be a part of your team can either make or break you as a leader., There are three important steps or elements Jesus used in choosing His team.

Let's read, Luke 6:12-13, *"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray (everyone say pray), and HE continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them, He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:"*

Let's also read Mark 3: 13-15, *"And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ¹⁴ Then He appointed (everyone say - appointed) twelve that they might be with Him and that He*

might send them out to preach,¹⁵ and to have the power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

A. PRAY

The first step in building your team is to **PRAY**. We need God's help. We need to let the Holy Spirit direct and guide us. Luke 6:12 Before Jesus made His team-building decision, He invested significant time in prayer. It probably wasn't His first time to pray about it, but it was the moment that He came to a decision. How many think if Jesus needed to pray about finding His team we need to pray?

Jesus knew these would be the men He would be with for the next three years and use to carry out His mission, so He had to hear from His Heavenly Father. Similarly, some of our decisions will impact us and the people we lead (and the mission God has entrusted to us) for years to come. Hearing from God about the people we invite to be part of our team is essential.

Everybody say – **PRAY!**

B. APPOINT

The next step in building your team is to **APPOINT**. In Mark 3:14 it says, "He APPOINTED twelve." Notice, Jesus didn't ask for volunteers or take a vote. He didn't bring everybody together in a large meeting and say, "I've got twelve openings on my leadership team. Here's your voting card with everyone's name on it. Whichever twelve get the most votes...you're in."

There is an "Anointing for Appointing". God through the Holy Spirit will help you. You need to be looking for those

God brings across your path. It is your responsibility and your choice.

It was Jesus' choice, and His choice was guided by the time He had spent in prayer with His Heavenly Father. Similarly, leaders don't make the selection (APPOINTING) of your team a matter of voting. That's why you're the leader. You are responsible for choosing the right team for the moment...the right team for the mission.

Team building isn't a popularity contest. Team building is guided by the fact we have a mission that needs to be accomplished, and the best way to fulfill that mission is to get the right people on the team. APPOINT...and appoint wisely – as led by the Spirit.

Everyone say – “**APPOINT**”.

C. BE SELECTIVITY

The third step or more accurately characteristic in the process of building your team is being – SELECTIVE. Notice Jesus selected only 12. Jesus didn't choose everyone.

When you select people for a team, it implies that you *didn't* select others. You have to prayerfully align character, competence, and chemistry to select the right person. It is one of the hard decisions we have to make as a leader. Not everybody is going to be on the team. Not everybody will make the cut. And not everybody will be happy when you make your final decision. Selectivity is important because teams become less effective, the larger they become. Small teams can pivot quickly and make faster decisions (often better decisions).

Does that mean you don't love them? Of course not. Does that mean they can't serve on other teams or in other places of ministry? Not at all. In fact, **everyone** is important, valuable, and needed. Everyone has their part, but not everyone is to be part of your team.

“Finding good team members is important but getting them to work together is the real test of true leadership.”

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR TEAM

While getting the right people on your team is extremely important, developing your team is equally important. Jesus didn't just recruit leaders, but He also developed them through training and equipping. We go into more detail later in the Principle of Leading by Developing other leaders, but for now let's look briefly at how Jesus poured into His team.

Jesus **developed a group of ordinary, working men into world-changing leaders**. Jesus instructed His team members on what to do, what not to do, and what their focus should be. He developed His team through the process of mentorship. Here are 7 key aspects of the Jesus' style of mentoring.

1. **Jesus' style mentoring is done on purpose.** Mentoring was a fundamental strategy for training and growing those on His team. He was very intentional with this approach. He did not leave their development to chance. As a leader, mentoring is a priority.
2. **Jesus' style of mentoring is done with selflessness.** Jesus mentored out of obedience to the Father. He got nothing out of it personally. He simply responded to God's call on His life and did what the Father led Him to do.

Mentoring like Jesus starts with selflessness. There has to be a drive or a calling to give back - to pay it forward. A commitment to the cause calls the mentor to rise above selfish interest and toward selflessness. As a leader, I make it about others.

3. **Jesus' style mentoring is always about multiplication – disciples making disciples.** He made clear that His kingdom was about making them “fishers of men,” not just “catching fish.” It was about more than leading the disciples to faith. As a leader, focus on making disciples that make disciples.
4. **Jesus' style of mentoring includes teaching.** Here's where mentoring is unique. A teacher can teach what he could never do himself. A coach usually coaches what he could do long ago. Mentorship includes teaching and coaching. You teach and coach *as you do things together*. Mentoring occurs as you're doing life together . . . being in the moment . . . interactive. As a mentor-leader part of the process includes teaching – explaining the what, the how, and the why.
5. **Jesus' style of mentoring includes modeling.** Jesus modeled prayer, compassion, servanthood, obedience, being led by the Holy Spirit, character, and integrity. Your team is watching you. Some of the most important things they learn will be from observing how you act and respond. Modeling what you do so others can see you do it. While mentoring includes teaching the power of mentoring is how your team can learn by watching and observing how you do it.
6. **Jesus' style mentoring happens in the group.** Normally we think of mentoring as one-on-one, life on life. But Jesus started . . . and ended . . . with a group. Time after

time He was speaking, teaching, and answering questions in front of His group . . . for all to hear and consume. Sure, there are times for one-on-one interaction, but most of our time should be spent with the group. Obviously, the Jesus group had different levels of understanding, but those who wanted it would come back and ask questions to get clarification. The same will be true in the process of mentoring your team.

7. **Jesus-style mentoring requires commitment.** It requires commitment from both the mentor and mentee. Being a mentee of Jesus was a huge commitment. The disciples had to leave their businesses, their families, their homes . . . all to follow and learn from Jesus. Mentoring isn't about breadth; it's about **depth**. It's not about how many we can mentor; it's about taking the ones we can mentor deep into the faith, and that requires a high level of commitment from both the mentor and the mentee.

Remember the disciples did not choose Jesus as their mentor, He chose them. ***"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you"*** (John 15:16 NKJV). The disciples of Jesus didn't choose Him, but they responded to His invitation – He chose them. Jesus allowed these men to participate in the things that he was doing. They observed first-hand the things that he was doing.

If you want to effectively develop your team it would be helpful to follow the Jesus style of leadership. Wisely select your team and then develop them – (help them grow as you mentor, teach, and coach them) Let your team know what your expectations are. Jesus did. It doesn't get more straightforward than ***"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*** (Mt. 16:24)

Other Observations

1. Jesus built diversity in His team.
2. **He focused on developing their potential rather than focusing on their weaknesses.**
3. **He empowered them and gave them opportunities to practice what they learned from Him.**
4. **He was not overly concerned with treating all team members equally.**
5. He gave feedback to His team.
6. He helped them develop a Kingdom perspective.
7. He gave them responsibility with corresponding authority.
8. He sent them out two by two on His behalf. (9:2)
9. He gave them the tools and resources they needed. (9:1)
10. He gave them clear instructions and directions. (9:3-5)
11. He gave them a chance to debrief and celebrate their experience. (9:10-11)
12. He helped them process change in their life and ministry. (9:18-27)
13. He kept them focused on the heart of the mission. (9:28-36; 51-56)
14. He showed them how to stay united while processing team conflict. (9:46-48)
15. He helped them manage their time and priorities. (9:57-62)

7 ADVANTAGES OF TEAM LEADERSHIP

1. Teamwork divides the effort and multiplies the effect
2. Teamwork improves creativity.
3. Teamwork increases productivity. (power of synergy)
4. Teamwork improves problem-solving.
5. Teamwork provides accountability.
6. Teamwork provides more diversity.
7. Teamwork creates community

7 TEAMWORK CONSIDERATIONS

1. Teamwork is not about you
2. Teamwork is about adding value to others not you
3. Talent wins games, but teamwork wins championships
4. Focus on the team not the dream.
5. Grow your team.
6. There is no “I” in team
7. Teamwork makes the dream work.

SUMMARY

Jesus's final instruction to us before He returned to His place in heaven with the Father was - "*Go and make disciples*" (Matthew 28:19). He's telling us, "Go and do what I did. Go and find some people who are a little farther behind you on the path, and help them take their next steps, just as I did with my disciples!" This is the foundation of building a team – of true discipleship.

His call is universal. It transcends gender, ethnicity, education, social or economic position. It certainly transcends position or vocation. Those Jesus disciples were of every kind of background. They were ordinary people called and chosen. As **believers**, we are all called to be leaders who build a team for the Kingdom – to make disciples who make disciples.

Don't be a "lone ranger" (someone who rides alone). Leaders who isolate themselves and take all the power and glory are not Biblical, high risk, and dangerous. It is more likely that a person will fall, fail, or at the very least limit their impact and fruitfulness.

There is power in teamwork. Together we can accomplish more. With a team, you can do greater things. Jesus had a team and look what He did!

"Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble. And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 (TLB)

PRINCIPLE 6

LEADING WITH MERCY

INTRODUCTION

Part of our vision at the City of Hope is to help believers become leaders who lead like Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is the greatest leader ever to live and if we truly want to become better leaders we should learn from the best.

Our world is in desperate need of Godly leaders so, we are training and preparing young men and women to be Godly leaders who lead like Jesus by studying the principles of leadership Jesus modeled.

There are so many things we can learn about leadership from Jesus. He was a servant leader. Jesus led with love and compassion. He was a leader of character who spoke the truth and maintained His integrity. Jesus led with a team. He shared His responsibility and power with those He led. Another principle of leadership Jesus modeled was – “MERCY”. **Great leaders show mercy.**

In this lesson, we are going to look at how Jesus showed mercy, what mercy is, why, and how great leaders should show mercy.

“ . . . he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” —Romans 12:8

JESUS SHOWED MERCY

Jesus was merciful. He showed mercy to those others scorned and deemed unworthy. He extended forgiveness and compassion to the adulteress woman at the well, Jesus sat and

dined with the worst of sinners. He would befriend and defend the social outcasts like the Samaritans and the lepers.

He showed mercy to the sick and lame. We see it in the story about a blind man in Luke 18:35.

“Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. ³⁶ And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. ³⁷ So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹ Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, ⁴¹ saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.” ⁴² Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” ⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Notice how the blind man was in need, and he cried out to Jesus, saying, ‘Have mercy on me’. As Christian leaders, if we received what we deserved it would be death and hell. It is only through Jesus we can stand blameless before God. Therefore, the extension of mercy is part of our leadership DNA as well. Who do you need to extend mercy today?

Jesus showed mercy to His twelve closest disciples. They often made mistakes but instead of condemning them, Jesus would show mercy!

- Philip panicked in the upper room and was unsure of who Jesus was.
- As Jesus was sharing the bread and the wine at the Last Supper, Luke tells us that the disciples began to fight over who was the greatest. How disappointing that must have been.
- They fell asleep and left Him alone during the time of His agony in the Garden.
- Peter denied Him three times.
- Judas betrayed Him.
- Thomas doubted.
- At the cross, all the disciples deserted Him and fled.
- Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem—instead, they all go back to the Sea of Galilee and return to their fishing business.
- They failed to cast out the demon mute spirit in a boy because of their unbelief. (Mark 9:14ff)

Every time the disciples messed up Jesus never condemned them. He would always extend mercy.

Jesus not only demonstrated mercy He taught what true mercy is. He taught the importance of being merciful in several of His parables including the “Good Samaritan”. (Lk. 10:25-27) In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a man who was robbed, beaten, stripped, and left for dead on the side of a road. A priest and a Levite each, in turn, saw the man and responded to him by moving to the opposite side of the road and continuing on their respective travels. Then, a Samaritan came upon the man and had a very different response. He stopped and helped the man. He bandaged his wounds, put him on his animal, took him to an inn, and paid for him to be taken care of.

Jesus asks the question, “Which of the three travelers in the story was a neighbor to the robber’s victim?” The answer was

given in verse 37, “He who showed mercy on him.” Jesus then instructs us to; “Go and do likewise.”

Jesus taught on mercy in the sermon on the Mount. He said, “*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*” (Mt. 5:7) God offers mercy—to you and everyone else who calls on his name. If a perfect God can do that for a sinful world, then you can do it for the person who sins against you.

A wise leader knows that he may need mercy one day, that is one reason why a true leader is merciful to those he leads.

The ultimate illustration of mercy is found in the sacrificial love of Christ on the cross. God's mercy, demonstrated through the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ, provides the foundation for our understanding and expression of mercy.

WHAT IS MERCY

Imagine you were pulled over by a policeman for speeding. You are guilty. You know the penalty, the punishment – a several hundred dollar fine or worse. But wait. The officer turns to you, advises you to be mindful of traffic laws, and lets you off with just a warning. That is mercy.

God does not give us the punishment that we deserve, that is the best definition of mercy - **not receiving the punishment we deserve**. Before we are saved, we are “sinners”, and we deserve death. However, as we call on the name of Jesus and make Him our Lord and Savior, we do not get the death that we justly deserve we get eternal life with Jesus. We get forgiveness and His righteousness. How many are thankful for God’s mercy?

God’s mercy shows up in our lives at salvation (Titus 3:5), and throughout life, He continually shows mercy in

forgiveness (1 John 1:9). His grace and mercy are what preserve us - His people.

God is rich in mercy. *“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.”* (Ephesians 2:4-5) His mercy never runs out. Psalm 126:1 says, *“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.”*

Sometimes, it's easy to forget just how great God's mercy is. We need to have the right image of God! He's not waiting in heaven with a lightning bolt ready to strike anyone who makes a wrong move. God is good and kind and shows you mercy when you mess up. He is “rich in mercy.”

“God's mercies are new every morning.” (Lam. 3:22-23) This was written by the prophet Jeremiah to encourage the Jewish people and to give them hope during very difficult times. God's mercy still gives us great hope in the battles we face today. God's mercy is not based on how good we are but upon His steadfast character. His compassion towards us is fresh every morning, and each day is a gift straight from His hand. We can trust His heart for us.

James 2:13 says, **“Mercy triumphs over judgment.”** In other words, we are deserving of death because of our sins (judgment), but God in His infinite grace and mercy, chose to send His son to die a horrible death, so that we may live. (Mercy) What an amazing God we serve. Mercy triumphed over judgment when Jesus Christ came to this world.

This verse also teaches us as Christians we should show mercy to others because we have been given mercy. We are called to

show this same mercy and grace to others as God has shown us.

Have you ever noticed that if you're critical of others, they're critical of you? If you're kind to others, they're kind to you. Or if you're generous with others, then they're generous with you? Whatever you give in life, you're going to get in return. The same is true with God's mercy. You reap what you sow. (Gal. 6:)

However, it can be difficult to extend mercy to someone who has done evil, hurtful, mean things. God does promise vengeance against those who "assail" us, but vengeance belongs to the Lord. (Rom. 12:19) As believers we are called to treat our enemy as a brother and respond to his hostility with love.

By showing mercy and love when wronged or when helping others, we fulfill the essence of the Law and demonstrate to the watching world how God's mercy triumphs over judgment through His gift of mercy and grace.

Has someone offended or hurt you? Choose to forgive. Choose to be merciful. Those who sow mercy will reap mercy. Proverb 9:11 tells us, *"Blessed is the man who overlooks an offense!"*

James calls on us to show mercy rather than judge by appearances. To love our neighbor as ourselves. Not just those who are like us. But everyone we come in contact with. Treat them as people created and loved by God. Show mercy to them, rather than judgment. James warns us that if we are not merciful to others, we are in danger of not receiving mercy from God. In the end, mercy triumphs over judgment.

GREAT LEADERS SHOW MERCY

As followers of Christ, we are to show others mercy, that does not end at the door of leadership. I would argue becomes even more important.

Mercy is a word not often associated with the business world or leadership traits. **Many in leadership don't believe there is room for mercy. They believe mercy is a sign of a "soft" or weak person.** But to undervalue the impact mercy can have on leaders is to grossly underestimate how crucial leading with mercy is in effectively leading his/her team.

A great leader is someone who knows the importance of showing mercy to his team as well as to others. A wise leader also knows that he may need mercy one day. That is why a true leader is merciful to others. Can you imagine what a life we would have if we could all be merciful? It would change so many things in our lives and relationships. Think about this if you are a leader.

Here are 5 Reasons a Leader should include mercy in his leadership traits.

1. We were given mercy undeserved. We are all recipients of mercy at some time in our lives. If you are a Christian, then you know you have received the ultimate mercy - eternal life that you don't deserve. *"Freely we have received freely give."* (Mt. 10:8) This holds true for us in our places of leadership.

2. Extending mercy is proof we value others. When leaders show mercy, they demonstrate that people's lives are valuable. They have value beyond what they may have done or not done. We should value everyone, appreciate their effort, and reward their positive accomplishments. A good rule to live by is to give the same mercy to others that you

want them to extend to you. You'll never go wrong by extending mercy to people. In fact, according to the law of sowing and reaping, if you give mercy to others, you are guaranteed to reap mercy from others when you need it the most. As leaders, it is even more important for us to value those we lead.

3. When we give mercy, it reflects in our hearts. A leader's inability to show mercy demonstrates the need to examine their heart. Leaders need to have a heart after God. In Jeremiah 3:15 God said, *"And I will give you leaders after my own heart, who will guide you with wisdom and understanding."* When our heart is right, we will know how and when to extend mercy, that's what great leaders do.

4. With authority comes power. We have the power to influence other's lives. Part of that power is the ability to show mercy. As leaders, we should be on guard against abusing and misusing the power we have as leaders.

5. With authority comes responsibility. Leaders have a responsibility to reflect on the mercy they have been shown. *"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."* Luke 6:36 NIV

SUMMARY

Mercy is a powerful force in leadership. It can help us to build trust and rapport with our team members, motivate them to achieve their best, and create a more positive and productive work environment.

Mercy is a key quality for any leader who wants to build a successful team and create a positive and productive work environment. When we are merciful leaders, we are not only making the world a better place, but we are also making ourselves better leaders.

God doesn't want you to show mercy only to the people you like, or only to the people it's easy to be merciful to. God wants you to be merciful to *everyone*.

As believers and even more so as leaders we should be agents of God's mercy. Why?

- Because God has shown you mercy. (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- Because God commands you to be merciful. (Micah 6:8)
- Because you're going to need more mercy in the future. (James 2:13)
- Because showing mercy brings blessings. (Matthew 5:7)

When we are merciful leaders, we are not only compassionate and forgiving, but we are also humble and servant-hearted. We are willing to put the needs of others before our own, and we are always willing to help those in need. You will never be diminished by showing mercy. Your leadership will flourish and the team you lead will be more fruitful. Be a true leader. Show mercy!

Leadership is about being a servant and putting the needs of others before our own.
Lead Like Jesus

PRINCIPLE 7

LEADING WITH PERSEVERANCE

The Power of Perseverance

Perseverance is the defining trait of great leaders. It is the ability to continue pushing forward despite challenges, setbacks, and opposition. Leaders who persevere inspire their teams, navigate adversity, and ultimately fulfill their purpose. As a leader, your resilience will determine the trajectory of your leadership journey.

The ultimate example of perseverance is Jesus Christ. He faced rejection, betrayal, and immense suffering, yet He never wavered in His mission. His leadership was not defined by ease or comfort but by His steadfast commitment to fulfilling God's will. His example teaches us that true leadership requires endurance, unwavering faith, and the ability to keep going even when circumstances seem insurmountable.

Jesus the Model of Persevering Leadership

Jesus Christ exemplified perseverance in every aspect of His leadership. From the moment He began His ministry to His final breath on the cross, He demonstrated an unyielding commitment to His calling. Let's examine three key ways Jesus persevered as a leader despite opposition, setbacks, and disappointments.

1. Persevering Through Rejection

Jesus was rejected by many, even in His hometown. In Mark 6:4, He stated, "*A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.*" Despite this rejection, He did not abandon His mission. Instead, He

continued preaching, teaching, and healing, knowing that His purpose transcended public opinion.

As leaders, we will face criticism and rejection. Not everyone will understand or support our vision. However, Jesus teaches us that perseverance requires focusing on the mission rather than seeking approval from others.

2. Persevering Through Betrayal

One of the most painful aspects of leadership is being betrayed by those closest to us. Jesus experienced this firsthand when Judas, one of His twelve disciples, betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). Despite knowing Judas's intentions, Jesus continued to love and serve him, even washing his feet at the Last Supper (John 13:2-5).

Betrayal can be disheartening, but leaders must remain steadfast. Our ability to keep leading despite personal wounds demonstrates true perseverance. Like Jesus, we must entrust ourselves to God's plan and continue moving forward.

3. Persevering Through the Cross

The ultimate test of Jesus' perseverance was the cross. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done*" (Luke 22:42). Despite the agony ahead, He pressed on, enduring the suffering for the sake of humanity.

This is the essence of sacrificial leadership. True leaders push through pain and difficulty, not for personal gain, but for the benefit of others. Jesus' perseverance resulted in the greatest victory—the redemption of mankind.

Keys to Leading with Perseverance

To lead with perseverance, we must develop resilience, faith, and a strong commitment to our calling. Here are key principles for staying steadfast in leadership:

1. Maintain a Clear Vision

Jesus never lost sight of His purpose. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us, *“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Leaders must keep their eyes on the bigger picture, even when facing difficulties.

2. Develop Resilience in the Face of Adversity

James 1:2-4 states, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* Challenges refine and strengthen us. We must embrace difficulties as opportunities for growth.

3. Surround Yourself with a Strong Support System

Jesus did not walk alone—He had His disciples. While they were imperfect, they provided companionship and support. Leaders need a strong inner circle of wise, faith-filled individuals who encourage and strengthen them during tough times.

4. Commit to Daily Renewal and Prayer

Jesus often withdrew to pray (Luke 5:16). He understood the importance of staying connected to the Father for strength. Leaders must prioritize spiritual renewal through prayer, Scripture, and worship to sustain their perseverance.

5. Lead by Example

Leaders set the tone for their teams. If you demonstrate perseverance, your team will follow. When leaders remain unwavering in tough times, they inspire those they lead to do the same.

The Impact of Perseverance on Leadership

A leader's perseverance determines the success and longevity of their influence. Without perseverance, organizations become stagnant, teams lose motivation, and missions go unfulfilled. History and Scripture reveal that only those who endure to the end achieve true greatness.

Quotes from Leaders on Perseverance

- *“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”* — Winston Churchill
- *“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader. They set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role; it’s always about the goal.”* — Lisa Haisha
- *“God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.”* — Max Lucado

Closing

Galatians 6:9 reminds us, *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* Leadership is not for the faint of heart. It requires endurance, faith, and an unshakable commitment to the mission God has placed before us.

As you pursue success as a leader one of the qualities that distinguishes the extraordinary from the ordinary is perseverance. To lead with perseverance means to endure challenges, to persist in the face of adversity, and to inspire others to do the same. It's not what we do once in a while that shapes our lives. It's what we do consistently. Here's how to harness the power of perseverance to become an unstoppable leader.

1. **Define Your "Why"** – Perseverance begins with knowing our purpose. Why do you do what you do? Your "why" is the fuel that keeps you going when the going gets tough. It's the compelling reason that motivates us beyond our limits. When you have a strong "why," the "how" becomes easier. Your purpose must be so clear and compelling that it ignites a fire within you and those you lead.
2. **Develop a Growth Mindset** - Leaders who persevere understand that failure is not a permanent state but a stepping stone to success. Maintaining a growth mindset is crucial. It will help encourage you to see challenges as opportunities to learn and grow. Instead of avoiding obstacles, confront them head-on, extract valuable lessons, and view them as opportunities. Embrace setbacks as opportunities to learn and become better. Use them to make adjustments to improve your strategies and strengthen your resolve.

3. **Establish an Unshakeable Belief** - Perseverance is sustained by an unshakeable belief in God, your calling as a leader, and the vision God has given you. Your faith in God must continually be strengthened through nurturing a deeper relationship with Jesus and an unwavering confidence in the Word of God. It is this unshakeable faith that allows you to overcome any obstacle.
4. **Build Resilience** - Resilience is the ability to bounce back from setbacks, and it's a cornerstone of perseverance. Life will knock you down; it's inevitable. But how quickly and effectively you get back up defines your leadership. Whenever you experience a setback set your eyes on Jesus and get ready for a "comeback".
5. **Take Massive Action** – Perseverance requires action, not just intention. It's not enough to have a vision and a plan; you must execute with relentless determination. Break your goals into actionable steps and tackle them with intensity and focus. Remember, progress fuels motivation. Celebrate small wins along the way to maintain momentum and keep your team engaged.

Inspire Through Your Example

Leaders who persevere inspire others by their example. Your actions, more than your words, will motivate your team to push through their own challenges. Show them what perseverance looks like in real time. Be transparent about your struggles and triumphs. Share your journey and the lessons learned along the way. When your team sees you embodying perseverance, they'll be more inclined to adopt the same mindset and behaviors.

Leading with perseverance is about more than enduring hardships; it's about thriving through them. It's about having a clear purpose, a growth mindset, an unshakeable faith in Christ, and a commitment to the vision and purpose God has given you. By embodying these principles, you not only propel yourself toward success but also inspire those around you to reach new heights. Commit to perseverance and watch as you transform challenges into stepping stones for extraordinary success.

True leadership is demonstrated through
actions, not just words.
Lead Like Jesus

PRINCIPLE 8

LEADING WITH PRAYER

The Power of Prayer in Leadership: Learning from Jesus

Jesus was not only the Savior of the world but also the ultimate leader. His leadership was rooted in prayer. He sought God's wisdom before making decisions, prayed for His followers, and stayed aligned with the Father's will.

History shows that great leaders are men and women of prayer. Dwight L. Moody once said, *"Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."* Leaders who neglect prayer risk relying on their own abilities rather than seeking divine guidance.

Jesus' prayer life serves as a model for cultivating spiritual strength and seeking divine guidance, essential for making wise decisions and maintaining spiritual vitality amidst challenges. Just as Jesus prioritized communion with the Father to fulfill His mission, leaders can similarly rely on prayer to align their hearts with God's will and lead with wisdom and compassion. Let's take a look at why Jesus prayed and how He prayed.

Why Did Jesus Pray?

One of the most effective ways to deepen our prayer life is by studying how Jesus Himself prayed. Though the Gospels do not provide a complete record of Jesus' life, they offer profound insights into His prayer habits. However, one question often arises: Why did Jesus, the Son of God, need to pray?

At first glance, it may seem puzzling that Jesus—who was fully divine—would have to pray. Yet, His prayers reveal critical truths about His nature, His relationship with the Father, and the example He set for us. There are at least three key reasons why Jesus prayed:

1. Jesus Prayed to Set an Example for His Followers

Jesus modeled the importance of prayer for His disciples and all believers. His life demonstrated that prayer was not optional but essential for maintaining a close relationship with God. He often withdrew to pray (Luke 5:16), showing that spiritual strength comes from consistent communion with the Father. Leaders today must recognize that they cannot lead effectively without prayer. As Oswald Chambers once said, *“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”*

2. Jesus Prayed as an Expression of His Humanity

The Incarnation means that Jesus was both fully God and fully man. As a human, He experienced hunger, fatigue, and emotional distress. Just as faithful Jewish believers engaged in prayer, Jesus prayed as part of His earthly walk. Hebrews 5:7 states, *“During His earthly life, He offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.”* His prayers remind us that leaders, no matter how capable, need divine strength and wisdom.

3. Jesus Prayed to Communicate with the Father

Jesus’ prayers also reveal the intimate relationship between Him and the Father. As part of the Trinity, He

was in constant communion with God. In John 17, Jesus' high priestly prayer shows His deep intercession for His disciples and future believers. *"I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours"* (John 17:9). This highlights the necessity of leaders praying for those under their care, seeking God's will on their behalf.

How Did Jesus Pray According to the Bible?

Jesus' prayers were intentional, diverse, and deeply relational. He prayed in different postures, at different times, and for different purposes. Below are key aspects of His prayer life that serve as a guide for us today.

1. Jesus Prayed with Humility and Surrender

"Then, after walking a short distance, He kneeled and prayed, 'My Holy Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'" — Matthew 26:39

Jesus knelt before the Father in Gethsemane, demonstrating humility and submission. Kneeling is a sign of reverence and dependence on God. Leaders must recognize that their strength comes not from personal ambition but from surrendering to God's will.

2. Jesus Prayed for God's Will to Be Done

When teaching His disciples how to pray, Jesus emphasized submission to God's plan:

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." — Matthew 6:10

Leaders must not rely on their own wisdom but seek God's direction in all things. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

3. Jesus Prayed in Solitude

"Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus rose, went outside, and found a quiet place to pray." — Mark 1:35

Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to spend time alone with the Father (Luke 5:16). Leaders today are bombarded with distractions and responsibilities. If Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, needed time alone in prayer, how much more do today's leaders need to prioritize personal prayer?

4. Jesus Prayed with Faith and Expectancy

"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me." — John 11:41-42

Jesus prayed with confidence, knowing that the Father always heard Him. Effective leaders pray with faith, trusting that God answers according to His perfect will. Martin Luther once said, *"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

5. Jesus Prayed for Others (Intercession)

"My supplication is not just for them. I pray that all of them will be one, Father; just as You are in Me and I am in You, for those who will come to believe in Me through their message."
— John 17:20-21

Jesus interceded for His disciples and future believers. This underscores the responsibility of leaders to pray for those they lead. Paul echoes this in 1 Timothy 2:1, urging that *"supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."*

Seven Ways Jesus Prayed

1. **Genuine Prayer** – Jesus prayed with authenticity and passion (Hebrews 5:7).
2. **Private Prayer** – He sought secluded places to pray before engaging in ministry (Mark 1:35).
3. **Continuous Prayer** – He prayed all night before making major decisions (Luke 6:12).
4. **Clear Prayer** – Jesus prayed with clarity and submission to God's will (Mark 14:35–36).
5. **Consistent Prayer** – His life was centered around constant communication with the Father (John 12:27–28).
6. **Corporate Prayer** – He prayed with His disciples, emphasizing the power of collective prayer (Luke 9:28–29).
7. **Compassionate Prayer** – Jesus interceded for Peter, demonstrating His concern for individual faith (Luke 22:31–32).

Lessons from Christian Leaders on Prayer

Many influential Christian leaders emphasize prayer as the foundation of effective leadership. E.M. Bounds, in *Power Through Prayer*, states, “The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.” Bounds argues that prayerful leaders are far more effective than those relying solely on strategy or intellect.

Similarly, Andrew Murray, in *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, highlights that prayer deepens our dependence on God and aligns our hearts with His purposes. As leaders, consistent prayer fosters humility, wisdom, and divine empowerment.

Dr. Charles Stanley once said, “God’s voice is clearest in a heart that is quiet before Him.” This reminds us that a leader’s greatest wisdom often comes in moments of stillness and prayer.

Practical Ways for Leaders to Incorporate Prayer

1. **Start the Day in Prayer** – Like Jesus, begin each day by seeking God’s guidance.
2. **Create a Prayer Routine** – Establish specific times for personal and corporate prayer.
3. **Pray Before Major Decisions** – Follow Jesus’ example of praying before making critical choices.
4. **Intercede for Those You Lead** – Lift up your team, congregation, or organization regularly in prayer.
5. **Find Solitude with God** – Schedule retreats or quiet moments for personal communion with God.

6. **Encourage Group Prayer** – Foster a culture of prayer among those you lead.
7. **Express Gratitude in Prayer** – Follow Jesus' example of thanksgiving to God (John 11:41).
8. **Pray with Expectation** – Jesus prayed knowing that the Father would answer (John 11:42).
9. **Use Scripture in Prayer** – Praying God's Word aligns our hearts with His promises (Matthew 4:4).
10. **Listen as Well as Speak** – Effective prayer includes moments of silence to hear God's voice (1 Kings 19:12).

The Foundation for Effective Leadership

Leadership is more than just making decisions and inspiring others—it requires divine wisdom, strength, and direction. Jesus Christ, the greatest leader in history, demonstrated that effective leadership is built on the foundation of prayer. His life teaches us that true leadership begins in the presence of God. For any leader to succeed, prayer must be a priority.

The Benefits of Prayer for Leaders

1. Prayer Brings Divine Wisdom and Direction

Leadership demands making critical decisions that impact others. Rather than relying on human understanding, leaders who pray receive divine insight. James 1:5 promises, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

2. Prayer Strengthens Faith and Trust in God

Leadership often involves challenges and uncertainties. Through prayer, leaders learn to rely on God's strength instead of their own. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

3. Prayer Develops Character and Spiritual Endurance

A leader's integrity is shaped in the secret place of prayer. Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before choosing His twelve disciples (Luke 6:12-13), showing that time with God prepares leaders for great responsibilities.

4. Prayer Cultivates Humility and Dependence on God

Leadership without prayer can lead to pride and self-reliance. Jesus humbled Himself before the Father, saying, *"Not My will, but Yours be done."* (Luke 22:42). Leaders who pray recognize that true success comes from God, not personal ambition.

5. Prayer Empowers Leaders to Serve Others Effectively

Jesus interceded for His disciples and future believers (John 17:20-21). Effective leaders pray not just for themselves, but for those they lead. Intercessory prayer fosters a servant's heart and deepens compassion.

Prioritizing Prayer in Leadership

Leaders are often busy, but busyness should never replace prayer. Martin Luther once said, *"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."* Leaders who

prioritize prayer find clarity, peace, and renewed strength for their responsibilities.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, also declared, *"God does nothing except in response to believing prayer."* This truth reminds us that lasting leadership impact is birthed in prayer.

Conclusion

Throughout His ministry, Jesus consistently withdrew to pray. Before major decisions, He sought the Father's guidance. Before performing miracles, He prayed. In times of weariness, He recharged through prayer. Even in His final moments, He prayed for His followers. Prayer is not an option for leaders—it is the foundation of effective leadership. Jesus modeled a life of prayer, showing that divine guidance, wisdom, and strength come from seeking the Father. Leaders who prioritize prayer lead with clarity, humility, and power. Prayer is essential to our relationship with God and others. Lead with prayer!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

PRINCIPLE 9

LEADING WITH ACCOUNTABILITY

Lessons from Jesus, the Greatest Leader

The Accountability of Jesus Christ

When we examine the life of Jesus, we see a leader who was deeply accountable. Jesus did not live an independent life but remained fully submitted to the Father in everything He did. He declared, *"I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me"* (John 8:28, NASB). His actions, teachings, and miracles were all performed under the authority of the Father, demonstrating a model of perfect accountability.

Jesus' accountability was not a sign of weakness but of divine order. He understood the importance of submission to authority, both divine and earthly. As a child, He submitted to His earthly parents (Luke 2:51). As an adult, He respected the governing authorities, teaching His followers to *"render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's"* (Mark 12:17). His obedience even unto death shows us the ultimate example of leading with accountability (Philippians 2:8).

Why Accountability is Essential for Leaders

Every leader needs accountability under authority because no leader is safe outside of it. King Solomon warned, *"Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory"* (Proverbs 11:14). Leaders who isolate themselves from accountability often fall into pride, poor decision-making, and moral failure. The Bible offers many examples of leaders who succeeded when they

embraced accountability and those who failed when they rejected it.

Illustration: Consider King David. When he was accountable to Nathan the prophet, he repented after his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:1-13). However, when King Saul rejected accountability and refused to obey Samuel, he lost his kingdom (1 Samuel 15:23). The difference between these two kings was their willingness to be held accountable.

The Centurion's Understanding of Authority and Accountability

One of the most powerful illustrations of accountability in leadership comes from the Roman centurion in Matthew 8:5-10. He told Jesus:

"For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." (Matthew 8:9, NASB)

The centurion understood that true authority comes from being under authority. Jesus marveled at his faith because it reflected a divine principle: accountability is not just about responsibility; it is about alignment with God's will.

What Is Accountability?

Accountability means allowing others to ask us hard questions, challenge our motives, and encourage us toward righteousness. It is not merely about avoiding mistakes but about growing in wisdom and integrity. Proverbs 27:17 states, *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* Leaders need people who will sharpen them, challenge their decisions, and guide them toward God's best.

Key Questions for Self-Examination in Leadership

To remain accountable, leaders should regularly ask themselves questions such as:

- Am I making decisions that align with God's Word?
- Have I sought wise counsel before making this decision? (Proverbs 15:22)
- Am I leading with integrity, or am I covering up mistakes?
- Would I be comfortable if my actions were made public? (Luke 8:17)
- Am I acting out of faith or fear?
- Do I have people in my life who can correct me when I am wrong?

The Consequences of Avoiding Accountability

The Bible warns of the dangers of rejecting accountability. Proverbs 29:2 states, *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan."* Leaders who avoid accountability often bring suffering to those they lead.

King Rehoboam, Solomon's son, ignored wise counsel and led Israel into division (1 Kings 12:1-19). His downfall came because he surrounded himself with people who told him what he wanted to hear instead of what he needed to hear. Leaders must be careful whom they listen to and ensure they have godly counsel.

Practical Steps to Cultivate Accountability in Leadership

1. **Submit to God's Authority** – Recognize that leadership is a stewardship from God, and we are answerable to Him (Romans 13:1).
2. **Surround Yourself with Wise Counsel** – Have mentors, advisors, or a board who can guide and correct you (Proverbs 24:6).
3. **Practice Transparency** – Be open about your struggles, decisions, and challenges (James 5:16).
4. **Stay Connected to the Word of God** – The Bible is the ultimate standard for accountability (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
5. **Invite Constructive Feedback** – Welcome correction and input from those you trust (Proverbs 12:1).

Following the Model of Jesus

Jesus demonstrated that leading with accountability is essential to fulfilling God's mission. He submitted to the Father, walked in obedience, and surrounded Himself with disciples to whom He imparted His leadership. If we desire to lead effectively, we must follow His example, remaining accountable to God, to His Word, and to the trusted people He places in our lives. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, *"It is required of stewards that they be found faithful"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). True leadership is not about wielding power but about walking in responsibility, humility, and accountability.

Let us lead as Jesus led—accountable, faithful, and fully surrendered to God's will. Lead with accountability

PRINCIPLE 10

LEADING WITH AUTHENTICITY

A Biblical Model Based on Jesus Christ

Introduction

Authenticity in Christian leadership refers to the genuine and transparent nature of a leader's character, actions, and teachings, aligning closely with the principles and teachings of Jesus Christ. It is the quality of being true to oneself and one's faith, ensuring that there is no discrepancy between what a leader professes and how they live. Authenticity is crucial in Christian leadership as it fosters trust, credibility, and integrity, which are essential for effective ministry and discipleship.

Biblical Foundations of Authentic Leadership

The Bible provides numerous examples and teachings that underscore the importance of authenticity in leadership. Jesus Christ Himself is the ultimate model of authentic leadership. In John 14:6, Jesus declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life." His life and ministry were marked by consistency between His words and actions, serving as a perfect example for leaders to emulate.

The Apostle Paul also emphasizes authenticity in his letters. In 2 Corinthians 1:12, Paul writes, "For our boast is this: the testimony of our conscience that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God, not in worldly wisdom but in the grace of God." Paul highlights the importance of sincerity and holiness, which are integral to authentic leadership.

Jesus as the Model of Authentic Leadership

Several of the characteristics of being an authentic leader include exhibiting the other principles of leadership discussed in this book. We are going to discuss a few of the key ones as they relate to leading with authenticity. First, as modeled by Jesus, and then strategies to implement them in our lives as leaders

1. **Consistency in Words and Actions**

Jesus never wavered between His words and His actions. He lived out the values He preached, demonstrating humility, love, and service. Matthew 23:3 warns against hypocrisy: "They do not practice what they preach." Authentic leaders must ensure their lives align with their teachings.

2. **Servant Leadership**

Jesus exemplified servant leadership, washing His disciples' feet in John 13:14-15: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Authentic leadership prioritizes service over status.

3. **Leading with Compassion and Truth**

Jesus demonstrated compassion without compromising truth. In John 8:11, He tells the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." Authentic leaders must balance grace with accountability.

4. **Vulnerability and Humility**

Jesus displayed vulnerability in the Garden of Gethsemane, openly expressing His distress in Matthew 26:39: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Authentic leaders embrace their humanity and surrender to God's will.

Practical Strategies to Lead with Authenticity

1. Practice Self-Awareness

Authentic leadership begins with knowing oneself. Leaders must recognize their strengths, weaknesses, and motivations. Psalm 139:23-24 says, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Self-awareness fosters integrity.

2. Communicate Openly

Authentic leaders communicate honestly and transparently. Proverbs 12:22 states, "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." Open communication builds trust and fosters a culture of honesty.

3. Embrace Vulnerability

Jesus did not hesitate to show emotions, whether weeping at Lazarus' tomb (John 11:35) or expressing frustration in the temple (Matthew 21:12-13). Brene Brown, a leading researcher on vulnerability, states, "Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity, and change." Leaders must embrace vulnerability to build authentic relationships.

4. Lead with Integrity

Integrity means living according to one's values, even when it is difficult. Proverbs 11:3 declares, "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity." A leader's character should be unwavering in both public and private life.

5. Prioritize Servanthood

Leadership is not about power but service. Mark 10:45 says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Servant leadership builds loyalty and fosters a Christ-centered team.

Illustrations of Authentic Leadership

1. Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War was marked by honesty, humility, and unwavering principles. He once said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have." Like Jesus, Lincoln led with integrity despite immense opposition.

2. Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa's authenticity was seen in her commitment to the poor. She famously stated, "Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway." Her selfless service mirrored Christ's call to serve others.

3. Billy Graham

Billy Graham's ministry was rooted in authenticity. He consistently lived out his faith, once saying, "Integrity means that if our private life were suddenly exposed, we'd have no reason to be ashamed or embarrassed." His consistency built trust with millions.

Conclusion

Leading with authenticity is a biblical mandate, modeled perfectly by Jesus Christ. Authentic leaders practice self-awareness, communicate openly, embrace vulnerability, lead with integrity, and prioritize servanthood. By aligning their leadership with the teachings of Jesus, they build trust, credibility, and effective ministries. As Proverbs 27:19 states, "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart." May our leadership reflect the heart of Christ, inspiring others to follow Him with sincerity and truth.

"Authenticity is about imperfection. And authenticity is a very human quality. To be authentic is to be at peace with your imperfections. The great leaders are not the strongest, they are the ones who are honest about their weaknesses. The great leaders are not the smartest; they are the ones who admit how much they don't know. The great leaders can't do everything; they are the ones who look to others to help them. Great leaders don't see themselves as great; they see themselves as human."

Simon Sinek

PRINCIPLE 11

LEADING WITH ENCOURAGEMENT

Leading by Encouragement: The Leadership of Jesus

One of the most powerful yet often overlooked qualities of a great leader is the ability to encourage others. Encouragement has the power to uplift, strengthen, and propel people forward in their purpose. It is a tool that transforms the discouraged into the determined, the fearful into the faithful, and the weak into the strong. No leader exemplified this better than Jesus Christ.

Jesus was the ultimate encourager. His words, actions, and very presence infused people with hope, confidence, and renewed strength. Whether He was speaking to the masses, instructing His disciples, or engaging with individuals struggling with fear and doubt, Jesus consistently encouraged people to rise above their circumstances and embrace their God-given potential. As leaders today, we must learn from Jesus' example and lead with encouragement, lifting up those around us to reach their highest calling.

Jesus, the Great Encourager

Throughout His ministry, Jesus encountered people who were weary, broken, and in need of hope. Time and again, He encouraged them with His words and actions, showing them that they were not alone and that God had a purpose for their lives. Let's explore some key ways Jesus led through encouragement.

Encouraging the Fearful

Fear is one of the greatest obstacles people face in fulfilling their purpose. Jesus consistently encouraged His followers not to be afraid. When the disciples were terrified during a storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus walked on water toward them and said, *"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* (Matthew 14:27, NIV). His presence and words dispelled their fear and strengthened their faith.

Leadership often involves guiding people through uncertain and challenging times. A leader who encourages and reassures their team during difficulties fosters resilience and perseverance. As John Maxwell says, *"Encouragement is oxygen for the soul."* Encouraging words from a leader can provide the breath of life people need to press forward despite fear.

Encouraging the Weary and Burdened

Jesus knew that life could be overwhelming, and He invited people to find rest in Him. In Matthew 11:28-30, He extended one of the most encouraging invitations ever recorded: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

This passage reveals that Jesus did not simply demand effort from His followers; He provided the strength and encouragement they needed to carry on. Leaders who practice encouragement must recognize when their people are weary and offer words and actions that provide rest and refreshment. Encouraging leaders lighten the load of those they lead by offering support, wisdom, and reassurance.

Encouraging Those Who Feel Inadequate

Many of Jesus' disciples struggled with feelings of inadequacy. Peter, for example, was quick to act but often doubted himself. After denying Jesus three times, Peter was deeply discouraged, but Jesus restored him with an encouraging conversation by the Sea of Galilee. Three times, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him and then instructed him to *"Feed my sheep"* (John 21:15-17). In doing so, Jesus reaffirmed Peter's calling and encouraged him to move past his failure and step into his leadership role.

Great leaders recognize that their followers will sometimes fail or feel unworthy. Instead of condemning, they encourage them to rise again. As Charles Spurgeon once said, *"A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than an hour of praise after success."* Encouraging leaders restore confidence in those who doubt themselves, inspiring them to continue pursuing their purpose.

The Importance of Encouraging Leadership

Encouragement is not just a kind gesture; it is a powerful leadership tool that fosters growth, loyalty, and motivation. When leaders encourage, they create an environment where people thrive. Here are some reasons why encouragement is essential in leadership:

1. **Encouragement Increases Confidence** – People perform better when they believe in themselves. A leader's encouragement strengthens their team's confidence and empowers them to take on challenges with boldness.
2. **Encouragement Fosters Loyalty and Trust** – When people feel valued and supported, they develop deeper

loyalty to their leader. Encouraging leaders build teams that are committed and dedicated.

3. **Encouragement Motivates People to Keep Going** – Challenges and setbacks can cause people to lose heart. Encouraging leaders help their teams push through difficulties with renewed determination.
4. **Encouragement Creates a Positive Culture** – Teams and organizations that prioritize encouragement develop a culture of positivity, collaboration, and resilience.

How to Lead with Encouragement

Leaders who want to follow Jesus' example must actively incorporate encouragement into their leadership style. Here are some practical ways to do so:

- **Speak Life-Giving Words** – Proverbs 18:21 reminds us that *"The tongue has the power of life and death."* Use words that uplift, inspire, and strengthen those you lead.
- **Celebrate Progress, Not Just Perfection** – Acknowledge and encourage people for their effort and growth, not just their success.
- **Be Present and Attentive** – Jesus listened to people and met them where they were. Take time to understand the struggles of those you lead and offer genuine encouragement.
- **Model Resilience and Faith** – Your encouragement will carry more weight when people see you practicing what you preach. Display perseverance and faith even in challenging times.
- **Pray for and with Others** – Jesus prayed for His followers, interceding on their behalf. Leaders who pray for those they lead show a deep level of care and encouragement.

Conclusion

Leading with encouragement is one of the most Christlike ways to lead. Jesus understood that people need hope, reassurance, and motivation to fulfill their calling. He encouraged the fearful, the weary, and the inadequate, strengthening them to become world-changers.

As leaders today, we must embrace encouragement as a vital part of our leadership. Whether in ministry, business, or personal relationships, we have the opportunity to uplift and inspire those around us. By doing so, we follow the example of Jesus, the greatest leader and encourager of all time. Lead with encouragement.

BE AN ENCOURAGER

That's what unconditional love is all about - being an encourager of people's passions, loves, and dreams - even if you don't agree with them. — Robin S. Sharma

We rise by lifting others

Encourage one another.

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

PRINCIPLE 12

LEADING WITH LOVE

Jesus led with love. As leaders, we need to lead with love. In an earlier chapter, we shared the principle of leading with compassion. Compassion is love in action. Both love and compassion are important for leaders. The Bible teaches us that God is love. (1 John 4:8) His love is amazing and endures forever. As leaders, we need to allow the love of God to be demonstrated in and through us. It is a choice we make. We can do it because the love of God is in us. Romans 5:5 says, "The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts". Let's look at how we can lead with love.

1. Embracing Unconditional Love

Jesus loved unconditionally. His leadership was not selective—He embraced the poor, the rich, the outcasts, and the elites alike. From tax collectors like Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) to fishermen like Peter and John (Matthew 4:18-22), Jesus called people from all walks of life to follow Him. His love was not transactional but transformational. He did not love people for what they could offer Him; He loved them because that was His nature.

Pastor Charles Stanley once said, "**Jesus accepted people as they were, but He loved them too much to leave them that way.**" This is the essence of leadership. True leaders do not just accept people for where they are—they inspire and challenge them to grow.

Practical Application:

- **See people beyond their present struggles.** Jesus saw Peter not as a flawed fisherman but as a future

leader of the church. Leaders must see potential in others and help cultivate it.

- **Love even when it's not reciprocated.** Jesus loved Judas, knowing he would betray Him (John 13:21-30). True leaders do not love for what they will receive in return.
- **Be present in people's lives.** Jesus spent time with sinners, the sick, and the marginalized. Leaders should be approachable and involved in the lives of those they lead.

2. Fueled by a Mission to Transform Lives

Jesus's leadership was not about personal gain but about changing lives. He declared in Luke 4:18-19:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

This was His mission statement. Everything He did was fueled by His love for people and His desire to see them free from sin, bondage, and despair.

Rick Warren, in *The Purpose Driven Life*, writes, **"True leaders do not seek power; they seek to empower others."** Jesus did exactly that—He empowered His disciples to carry out His mission, equipping them with wisdom, faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Practical Application:

- **Define your mission.** What drives your leadership? Is it personal success or the betterment of others? Jesus' mission was to bring abundant life to people (John 10:10).
- **Empower others.** Jesus trained and sent out the 72 disciples (Luke 10:1-20). Leaders should equip and trust others to carry the mission forward.
- **Measure success by transformation.** Jesus didn't focus on numbers but on changed lives. Leaders should evaluate their effectiveness by the impact they have on people.

3. Loving Beyond Boundaries

Jesus shattered cultural and societal barriers to love people. In John 4, He engaged in conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well—something that shocked His disciples, as Jews typically did not associate with Samaritans. He healed the servant of a Roman centurion (Luke 7:1-10), showing that His love extended beyond His own people.

The Pharisees often criticized Jesus for spending time with sinners, but He responded in Mark 2:17, **"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

John Maxwell, in *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, says, **"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."** Loving people means stepping into their world, understanding their struggles, and offering real solutions.

Practical Application:

- **Lead without favoritism.** Jesus ministered to both the rich (Joseph of Arimathea) and the poor (beggars

and lepers). Leaders must treat all people with equal respect.

- **Break social barriers.** Jesus dined with tax collectors and sinners. Leaders should step beyond their comfort zones to connect with different groups of people.
- **Extend grace.** Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). Leaders should create an environment where people can grow despite their past mistakes.

4. Love in Action: The Good Samaritan

One of the greatest illustrations Jesus gave about love was the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). In this story, a man is beaten and left for dead. A priest and a Levite pass by without helping, but a Samaritan—considered an enemy of the Jews—stops, cares for the man, and provides for his recovery.

Jesus used this story to show that love is not about position, title, or convenience—it is about action. Leaders who love do not just give speeches; they roll up their sleeves and serve.

Practical Application :

- **Love is an action, not just a feeling.** The Good Samaritan didn't just feel sorry for the injured man—he did something about it. Leaders should be problem-solvers who take real action to help others.
- **Sacrifice for others.** The Samaritan spent his own money to take care of the man. Leadership requires personal sacrifice for the well-being of others.

- **Love those who are different.** The Samaritan helped a Jew, despite their cultural differences. Leaders should work to bridge divides and unify people.

Conclusion

Leading Like Jesus Means Loving Like Jesus

Leadership is about influence, and the greatest influence comes from love. Jesus changed the world not by commanding armies or building institutions, but by loving people deeply and sacrificially. If we want to lead like Him, we must:

1. **Embrace unconditional love** – See people as Jesus saw them: valuable, redeemable, and full of potential.
2. **Be fueled by transformation** – Lead with a mission to change lives, not just achieve goals.
3. **Love beyond boundaries** – Break social and cultural barriers to reach people where they are.
4. **Put love into action** – Demonstrate care through tangible service and sacrifice.

John 13:34-35 says, "**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

If we want to be significant leaders, our love for people must be the driving force behind everything we do. True leaders are not remembered for their power but for their love—because love is what truly transforms lives.

PRINCIPLE 13

LEADING WITH FLEXIBILITY

Leadership requires vision, strength, and conviction—but it also demands flexibility. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances without compromising core values is a defining characteristic of great leaders. Jesus, the greatest leader in history, exemplified flexibility in His ministry. He was unwavering in His mission yet adaptable in His methods. He responded to people's needs as they arose, often changing His plans, but never compromising His principles.

In today's world, leaders—whether in ministry, business, or family life—must learn to navigate change with wisdom. Those who are too rigid risk becoming ineffective, while those who are too flexible risk losing their sense of direction. Jesus mastered the balance, showing us that true leadership involves knowing when to pivot and when to stand firm.

1. Flexibility Strengthens Leadership

Jesus demonstrated flexibility throughout His ministry, constantly adjusting His plans to meet people's needs. A striking example is found in **Mark 5:21-43**, where Jesus was on His way to heal Jairus' dying daughter when He was unexpectedly stopped by a woman who had been suffering from an issue of blood for twelve years. Though time was pressing and Jairus was likely desperate, Jesus paused to acknowledge the woman's faith, healing her before continuing His journey to Jairus' house.

This moment teaches a vital leadership lesson: **effective leaders prioritize people over schedules**. Jesus understood that interruptions often held divine opportunities. By embracing flexibility, He ministered to both the woman and

Jairus' daughter, demonstrating that leadership is not about efficiency but about impact.

Application:

- Be open to divine interruptions. Sometimes, the most significant ministry moments happen in unexpected detours.
- Adapt your leadership to meet people where they are. Jesus didn't treat every situation the same—He responded uniquely to each need.
- Recognize that flexibility doesn't mean disorganization; it means responsiveness.

Pastor Rick Warren wisely said, *"Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."* Great leaders adjust as needed without losing their purpose.

2. Breaking Tradition for the Sake of the Mission

Jesus' flexibility often challenged religious traditions. He healed on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17), engaged with social outcasts (John 4:1-26), and defended His disciples when they plucked grain on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8). When confronted by the Pharisees, He responded, **"There is far more at stake here than religion. If you had any idea what this Scripture meant—I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual—you wouldn't be nitpicking like this"** (Matthew 12:6-7, MSG).

Jesus understood that **rules should never take precedence over people**. While traditions can be valuable, they should never hinder the mission. Leaders must discern when to uphold traditions and when to let them go for the greater good.

Application:

- Be willing to challenge outdated methods if they no longer serve the mission.
- Keep people at the center of leadership decisions, not just policies or traditions.
- Avoid legalism—be firm on principles but flexible on procedures.

As Craig Groeschel puts it, *“If we’re not careful, our methods can become the mission.”* Leaders must be willing to adapt their strategies while staying true to their purpose.

3. Knowing When to Be Inflexible

While Jesus was adaptable in many areas, He was resolute when it came to His mission. One example is found in **John 12:20-24**, when a group of Greeks sought to see Him. Instead of altering His path to preach to them, Jesus reaffirmed His commitment to the cross, stating, **“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”** He understood that His ultimate mission was to die and rise again, ensuring salvation for all people.

Had Jesus been swayed by every request or opportunity, He might have avoided the cross—but at the cost of humanity’s redemption. His unwavering commitment to His purpose teaches leaders a crucial lesson: **be flexible with methods, but immovable with principles.**

Application:

- Stand firm on God’s calling for your life, even when pressured to change course.

- Know your non-negotiables. Jesus' mission was non-negotiable; leaders must determine their own core convictions.
- Understand that flexibility in leadership does not mean compromising truth.

Pastor John Maxwell puts it this way: *"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."* That means staying true to your mission, even when challenges arise.

4. The Balance of Flexibility and Conviction

How can leaders discern when to be flexible and when to be firm? The answer lies in listening to God's guidance. **If it's about people, be flexible. If it's about principles, stand firm.**

Jesus lived out this balance perfectly. He was flexible when ministering to individuals but unwavering in fulfilling His divine purpose. He adjusted His schedule to meet immediate needs but remained steadfast on the road to the cross.

Application:

- **Stay adaptable** when leading people, but **stay anchored** in your values.
- **Recognize divine detours** as opportunities, but **stay focused** on your ultimate purpose.
- **Embrace change** when necessary, but **never compromise integrity**.

Pastor Andy Stanley once said, *"We have to be stubborn about our mission but flexible in our methods."* This is exactly how Jesus led—rooted in unshakable purpose yet responsive to the needs around Him.

Conclusion

Leading Like Jesus

Jesus' leadership was marked by both adaptability and conviction. He met people where they were, broke barriers that hindered ministry, and responded to real-time needs—yet He never wavered from His mission.

As leaders today, we must follow His example:

1. **Be flexible with schedules, but firm in purpose.**
2. **Adapt methods to reach people, but never compromise truth.**
3. **Respond to interruptions with grace, recognizing them as divine appointments.**
4. **Stay focused on God's ultimate calling, even when distractions arise.**

Flexibility in leadership is not about weakness; it is about wisdom. By leading with both adaptability and conviction, we can make a lasting impact—just as Jesus did.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
– Hebrews 13:8

Though Christ Himself never changes, His leadership shows us the importance of adjusting our approach without losing sight of the mission. May we lead with His wisdom, strength, and flexibility.

PRINCIPLE 14

LEADING BY DELEGATION

Leading by Delegating

As a leader, Jesus delegated responsibility and authority. If we are to lead like Jesus, we need to learn how to delegate effectively.

No leader wants to be the lid for their organization, business, or ministry or experience burnout from attempting to manage it all and see their team flee to better opportunities. However, leaders who are unwilling or unable to delegate will experience all of this and more. I speak from experience.

The art of delegating has been one of the hardest things for me as a leader to learn and to implement effectively. I used to believe that if I let others do the work, it wouldn't be done right or would take too long. I used to think it would just be easier if I did it myself.

Yet Jesus, who was perfect, enlisted and trained 12 people to help with his ministry. He delegated and empowered others to do the work of the ministry. You can't make it as a leader without other people. I became the "lid" that hindered growth and caused good team members to move on to other opportunities. Don't let that happen to you as a leader; instead, learn to lead by delegating.

Don't Be a Lone Ranger

God has called you to be a leader, but he hasn't called you to do it alone. In fact, Lone Ranger leaders eventually experience burnout. They don't last. So don't try to do it all yourself.

Jesus didn't. Mark 3:14 says, *"Then he chose twelve of them to be His apostles, so that they could be with him. He also wanted to send them out to preach"* (CEV).

A leader who keeps all of their authority and responsibility to themselves is failing in their leadership role. On the other hand, leaders who learn how to skillfully delegate responsibilities and authority unleash their organization, business, or ministry to reach their full potential and maximum impact.

What is Delegation?

Delegation is defined as an art form that changes the way leaders do their jobs by giving people more power and encouraging teamwork. Being able to share tasks well is a sign of great leadership.

Delegation involves more than merely assigning tasks to others; it constitutes a deliberate and strategic decision to entrust responsibilities to different individuals. By doing so, one recognizes that collaborative efforts yield superior results. Leaders, through delegation, shift from being taskmasters to becoming architects of an environment where people collaborate to accomplish objectives.

Delegation is not about giving other people work you don't want to do; it's a deliberate way to use the skills and giftings of each team member. Leaders who are good at what they do know that delegation is a key part of growth and success.

Learn How to Delegate

Part of growing as a Godly and effective leader is learning to delegate. Learning how to delegate as a leader is not only

important; it is critical. We don't have to attend workshops or read all the latest books for leaders to learn what we need to know about delegation. Though they can be helpful, we already have a manual for leadership practices and responsibilities — the Word of God.

The Bible is filled with examples of delegation. Here are a few:

God delegated

- God made the animals but gave Adam the task of naming them (Genesis 2:18-20).
- God made the creation but tasked man to fill it, rule over it, and subdue it (Genesis 1:28).
- God designed the ark but gave Noah the job to actually build it (Genesis 6:13-22).

Moses delegated

- Moses chose capable leaders to serve as officials over the people (Exodus 18:24-25).
- Moses brought together the 70 elders to lead (Numbers 11:24-25).

Paul delegated

- Paul instructs Timothy to find faithful men whom he can develop as leaders through delegation (2 Timothy 2:2)

Jesus delegated

- He had His disciples baptizing others (John 4:2).
- He delegated the job of finding lunch to the disciples (Matthew 14:16).
- He instructed the disciples to set up a place for the last supper (Matthew 26:18).

Delegation is a common principle in Scripture and absolutely aligns with God's call to make disciples, develop leaders and invest in those around you. In fact, the Great Commission itself in Matthew 25 is God calling believers, giving them authority and sending them in that power to change the world. Scripture gives us plenty of insight and instruction on how to delegate as a leader.

Master Class in Delegation

We are going to use the story of Moses and how he as a leader learned to delegate to overcome potential disaster as a leader. God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. The Israelites had been in held in bondage by Egypt for almost 400 years, but after a series of 10 miracles, Pharaoh lets God's people go and Moses lead them across the Red Sea headed for the promised land. Moses was the leader of over 2 million people. Moses was doing it all by himself and things were not going well. In Exodus 18:5 it says that Jethro, Moses' father-in-law came with his sons and wife to see Moses.

But in verses 14-17 *it says, "When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions." Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good."*

Moses's father-in-law Jethro was blunt. But he was also profoundly helpful. So much so that Exodus 18:24 tells us that

“Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.”

What did Jethro tell Moses to do? In short, delegate the work of governing Israel. Exodus 18:13-26 gives us a front-row seat to the masterclass Jethro taught Moses on delegation. Today, I want to turn your attention to five principles from that passage that are relevant to you today, whether you lead a team of 10 or 0 and are simply delegating work around your house.

Principle #1: Identify the work you’re most uniquely equipped to do. For Moses, that was to “be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him” (v. 19). He was the only person God had called to that task, and so, Jethro urged him to focus his time and energy on that singular activity.

Principle #2: Select trustworthy people to delegate other work to. In verse 21, Jethro told Moses to “select capable” people to delegate the work of judging Israel to. But when he explained what he meant by “capable,” he didn’t focus on technical skills, but matters of the heart, urging Moses to select “men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain.”

Principle #3: Make the time to train well. One of the most common mistakes I see people make when delegating is not making the time to delegate *well*. Jethro warned Moses against this, instructing Moses to “teach [his team God’s] decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live” (v. 20).

Principle #4: Trust your team. “The simple cases they can decide themselves,” Jethro said in verse 22. In other words, *don’t micro-manage, Moses!* When we trust those we delegate

work to, it not only serves us by freeing us to focus on the work we're most uniquely equipped to do, it also enables *others* to do *their* most exceptional work.

Principle #5: Delegate, but don't abdicate. Jethro didn't advise Moses to let his team handle *all* cases on their own. Just the "simple" ones. Jethro said, "have them bring every *difficult* case to you" (v. 22). Why? Because, to quote Michael Hyatt, "Delegation is not abdication. The outcome is still your responsibility."

Why does it matter that we, like Moses, learn to delegate well? Because it enables us to excel at the very thing God saved the Israelites and us to do: Work for his glory, the good of others, and the advancement of his kingdom

Summary

As a leader, decide to be a leader who delegates responsibilities and authority to others. Learn how to delegate effectively. Make sure to follow the examples and principles taught in the word of God.

When you do your people will know what is expected, have the authority and resources needed to succeed, and the necessary accountability to ensure things are being taken care of in the proper way. As the leader, you won't become a lid or experience burnout. Frustration and misunderstandings will be minimized, and the organization will flourish. Be a leader who lead by delegating.

PRINCIPLE 15

LEADING BY DEVELOPING LEADERS

Leading by Developing Other Leaders

One of the most significant marks of a great leader is their ability not just to lead effectively but to raise up other leaders. Jesus exemplified this in His ministry. He was not just a teacher or a miracle worker; He was a multiplier. His leadership was never about maintaining control but about enlarging His circle and preparing others to carry His mission forward.

Jesus' approach to leadership development was strategic and intentional. He didn't just impart knowledge; He trained, equipped, empowered, and refined those He called. His leadership development efforts did not stop with the Twelve. He expanded His reach, sending out the seventy-two, and ultimately commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). Without leadership development, we run the risk of burnout, stalled growth, and unfulfilled potential. A leader's true legacy is not measured by what they accomplish alone, but by the leaders they develop along the way.

Luke 10 provides a clear blueprint of how Jesus developed leaders. In this chapter, we see four key ways Jesus raised up leaders:

1. Training and Equipping

Before Jesus sent out the seventy-two, He prepared them for the task. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his

harvest field" (Luke 10:2). Jesus helped them understand the urgency and importance of their mission. He didn't just send them out blindly; He provided them with the necessary knowledge and training to be effective.

As leaders, we must equip those we lead with the right tools, training, and mindset. We should teach them practical skills, provide them with resources, and ensure they are spiritually and mentally prepared for their calling. Leadership development must be intentional. It's not enough to hope that leaders will emerge—we must actively cultivate them. John C. Maxwell states, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." Jesus lived out this principle by leading with example and instruction.

2. Giving Specific Instructions

Jesus was clear in His instructions. He told them where to go, what to take, what to say, and how to react to different situations (Luke 10:3-11). He prepared them for both success and rejection. Leaders who develop other leaders must be intentional about giving clear direction. Vague guidance produces uncertain leaders, but clear instructions create confidence.

One practical way to do this is through mentorship. Great leaders spend time pouring wisdom into their mentees, sharing experiences, and offering specific guidance. Leadership is not about keeping all the knowledge to oneself; it's about passing it on to others. Clarity eliminates confusion and empowers people to lead with confidence.

3. Empowering and Sending

Jesus didn't just talk about leadership—He released leaders. Luke 10:1 says, "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go." Jesus empowered them by entrusting them with real responsibility.

Too often, leaders hesitate to delegate significant tasks. They fear mistakes or inefficiency, but true leaders understand that growth happens in action. When we give others responsibility and allow them to step into leadership roles, they gain confidence and develop their abilities. Pastor Craig Groeschel puts it this way: "If you delegate tasks, you create followers. If you delegate authority, you create leaders."

As leaders, we must learn to trust and empower those we are developing. Leaders who refuse to empower others eventually burn out or stall their organization's growth. Jesus knew that His mission would only expand if He multiplied Himself through others.

4. Refining Through Debriefing and Feedback

After their mission, the disciples returned and shared their experiences with Jesus (Luke 10:17). He celebrated their successes and provided deeper insight: "Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). Jesus helped them understand the bigger picture.

Great leaders don't just send people out and leave them on their own. They bring them back, reflect on what worked, address challenges, and refine them for future effectiveness. Feedback is critical in leadership development. Leaders should create an environment where emerging leaders feel

safe to share their experiences, ask questions, and receive constructive guidance.

A strong feedback culture helps leaders grow. It turns mistakes into learning opportunities and victories into stepping stones for greater effectiveness. As leadership expert Ken Blanchard states, "Feedback is the breakfast of champions." Without debriefing and coaching, even the most talented leaders will fail to reach their full potential.

The Importance of Recruiting Quality Leaders

One of the most crucial aspects of leadership development is recruiting the right people. Jesus didn't just call anyone to be His disciples—He chose individuals who had the potential for growth and transformation. He saw beyond their present condition and recognized what they could become.

As leaders, we must be intentional in identifying and investing in people who have the capacity to lead. We should look for individuals with character, commitment, and a willingness to grow. When we recruit wisely, we create a leadership pipeline that sustains growth and impact for years to come.

Other Important Ways to Develop Leaders

Beyond these four principles from Luke 10, Jesus also modeled other essential ways to develop leaders:

Modeling Servant Leadership

Jesus didn't lead from a place of power but from humility. He washed His disciples' feet (John 13:14-15) and taught them that the greatest leader is the one who serves. Leaders who

want to develop other leaders must exemplify the character and values they wish to instill.

Creating a Culture of Growth

Jesus continually challenged His disciples to grow. He asked thought-provoking questions, corrected their misunderstandings, and encouraged them to step out in faith. Leaders must foster an environment where learning and growth are prioritized.

Giving Opportunities for Real Leadership

Jesus didn't just teach in theory; He gave His disciples opportunities to practice what they learned. He sent them out to preach, heal, and cast out demons. We must allow emerging leaders to take real leadership roles, make decisions, and gain firsthand experience.

Encouraging Perseverance

Leadership is not easy, and Jesus prepared His disciples for hardships. He warned them of persecution and difficulties (John 16:33) but also reminded them of God's faithfulness. Leaders must encourage those they mentor to persevere, even in adversity.

Conclusion

Jesus was not just a leader—He was a leader of leaders. His mission did not end with Him; it multiplied through those He trained, equipped, empowered, and refined. As leaders today, we must follow His model. We must invest in others, give them clear guidance, trust them with responsibility, provide

constructive feedback, and cultivate a culture of continuous growth.

If we want to lead like Jesus, we must develop other leaders who will carry on the mission. True leadership is not about personal success; it's about raising up others to make an impact. As Andy Stanley wisely said, "Leaders who don't listen will eventually be surrounded by people who have nothing to say." Let us be the kind of leaders who listen, teach, empower, and raise up the next generation of leaders who will carry the mission further than we ever could on our own.

PRINCIPLE 16

LEADING BY SPIRIT

Jesus was led by the Spirit in all He did. As leaders, we need to learn to be led by the Spirit like Jesus. Jesus is our example, and as we study His life, we see how He always aligned Himself closely with the Father's perspective and did what the Father told Him to do.

Over the past thirty years of ministry, I have grown in my understanding and conviction that Spirit-led leadership is more important than any of the other leadership skills or principles. God's plan is better than our plans, and he sees what is ahead much more clearly than we do.

We need the Spirit of God in our leadership. We desperately need both the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit in our leadership. Without this empowerment, we default to leading from our own built-in limitations, resulting in the pursuit of our own agendas, ultimately far less than what God intends for us. Leadership skills can be dangerous and bring great harm if it is not Spirit-empowered. Conversely, leadership skills can bless and cause organizations, businesses, and ministries to flourish IF the leaders are being led by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

We read in the gospels how Jesus was led by the Spirit in His ministry and all of His decisions. In the book of Acts, we further read how the early church was empowered by the Holy Spirit as they launched and grew the early church. We need these attributes of empowerment as leaders as well. We need

Spirit-empowered growth, gifting, character, adaptability, and perseverance.

Jesus told his followers to wait in Jerusalem and “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:4, 8). What does it mean to be empowered to lead? As illustrated from Jesus’s inaugural message, to be Spirit-empowered means to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to serve others. “Empowerment” is “the act or action of empowering someone or something . . . the power, right, or authority to do something.” After Jesus was tested in the wilderness, he stood before his village to declare he was endowed with spiritual power to bring wholeness to those who were broken. One might say that Jesus embraced his identity as a “whole leader for the whole world.”

Early Church Looked for Leaders Filled with the Spirit

When the early church needed more leaders, the apostles looked for people who were filled with the Holy Spirit. We read in Acts 6:3, “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;”. The Apostles needed 7 more leaders, and they specifically said they needed to be filled with the Spirit. Stephen was one of those selected. “They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,” (V. 5) and in verse 8 it says, “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.” So, we see how Stephen and early leader in the church led with the power of the Holy Spirit following the example of Jesus.

Today, it is the same. We need leaders who are empowered by the Holy Spirit who are submitted to the lordship of Jesus and led by the Spirit. I'm convinced that the reason we do not always see this power in our churches today is because we tend to focus more on programs and action items than we do on seeking God's power and being led by the Holy Spirit. We need leaders who are led by the Spirit.

What does it mean to be a Spirit-led Leader?

When we lead by the Holy Spirit, we lead from the inside out versus the outside in. Our leadership flows from having our identity grounded in our relationship with Jesus. As we submit ourselves to Him and trust Him and His Work, the Holy Spirit rules our mind, will, and emotions. We become Holy Spirit-led leaders.

Leaders go first, make decisions, cast vision, and reproduce whoever they are into those that they lead. Spirit-led leadership is more than just the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the leader. It taps into and accesses Heavenly wisdom, revelation, strategies, and visions.

Spirit-led leadership adds a supernatural element to leadership. It opens the door to accessing miracles, signs, and wonders. Leaders who are led by the Holy Spirit can do things they aren't capable of on their own. Partnering with the Holy Spirit is a game changer in leadership of any realm – business, finance, church, marriage, sports, anything!

Spirit-led leading is allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life, listening to, and obeying the Spirit as He leads you. The Holy Spirit is living on the earth in and through believing believers. It is the Holy Spirit who "leads us into all truth"

(John 16:13) and guides us to live lives that bring honor and glory to God.

Being led by the Holy Spirit, or in other words, doing life with the Holy Spirit, is Heaven's design for helping us to experience the abundant life Jesus purchased on the cross. Thus, it is critical for effective Kingdom leadership.

3 Qualities of a Spirit-Led Leader

1. Prayerful. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18 that we are to, “Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. The best leaders are praying leaders. The journey to being Spirit-led starts with a solid prayer routine.

2. Jesus focused. I think this one is the hardest. Mostly because if we truly want to be a Spirit-led leader, then the work we do should always point people back to Jesus. John 15:26 reminds us that the Spirit will bear witness about Jesus. So, with that in mind, if a leader is truly Spirit-led, that leader will be living the truth out in practice. Evaluating every decision through the lens, “Does this point people back to Jesus?”

3. Obedient. The interesting thing about the relationship with the Holy Spirit is that if you are prayerful and Jesus-focused, the Holy Spirit will move you. Physically move you. In Matthew 4, we are reminded that Jesus was LED BY THE SPIRIT into the wilderness to be tempted. Let's all be real for a second and acknowledge that nobody wants to be led by the Spirit toward hard things. But when we strive towards being a Spirit-filled leader, we are surrendering to the will of the

Spirit in all we do. The Spirit may call us to hard and scary things, and as Spirit-led leaders, our response is obedience and surrender.

Characteristics of Spirit-Led Leadership

1. **Dependence on God:** Spirit-led leaders rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and strength, acknowledging their own limitations and the necessity of divine assistance.

2. **Boldness and Courage:** Leaders led by the Spirit demonstrate boldness in proclaiming God's truth and courage in facing opposition, as seen in the apostles' fearless preaching in Acts.

3. **Wisdom and Discernment:** Spirit-led leaders have wisdom and discernment to make sound decisions and lead effectively, as exemplified by Solomon's request for wisdom (1 Kings 3:9).

4. **Servant Leadership:** Leaders led by the Holy Spirit follow the example of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45), leading with humility and a heart for others.

5. **Fruit of the Spirit:** The lives of Spirit-led leaders are marked by the fruit of the Spirit, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Ultimately, Spirit-led leaders are empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and equipped by God to lead God's people with

wisdom, courage, and humility, fulfilling the divine purposes set before them.

Summary

We all desire to be effective (and hopefully good) leaders in our particular professions, in our families, in our communities, and in our organizations. To be our best, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. Apart from him, our best yields but little; yet with him, our little yields so much. The effect of the Holy Spirit has on us as leaders allows us to take all that God has given us – our gifts, experiences, passions, and knowledge – and *set them to work*, bringing glory to Christ as we lead and serve our people.

Leading others by the power of the Spirit means, first of all, living a life of profound humility. Just as Jesus said, “The Son can do nothing of Himself” (John 5:19), so the Spirit-led leader says, “Without You, I am nothing and can do nothing” (John 15:5). If Jesus modeled the life of utter dependence on the Father, how can we do less than take the steps of obedience and humility that result in a ministry of spiritual depth and power? We need to be leaders who lead by the Spirit and to do it with all humility giving all the glory to Him!

PRINCIPLE 17

LEADING WITH HUMILITY

One of the defining characteristics of great leadership is humility. In a world that often equates leadership with power, dominance, and control, Jesus demonstrated a radically different approach. He was the greatest leader in history, yet He led with humility, servanthood, and selflessness. He did not seek status or recognition but instead poured Himself out for others, setting an example for all who would follow Him.

Humility: The Opposite of Pride

The Bible consistently teaches that humility is the opposite of pride. Pride seeks self-promotion, control, and personal gain, whereas humility seeks to serve, uplift, and glorify God. Proverbs 16:18 warns, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." On the other hand, James 4:10 reminds us, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

Jesus embodied this principle in every aspect of His life and ministry. Philippians 2:3-4 exhorts us, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." This passage perfectly describes the heart of Christ's leadership. He was not driven by selfish ambition, but by a love for His Father and a desire to serve those He led.

Jesus: The Ultimate Model of Humility

Jesus, though fully God, chose to humble Himself. Philippians 2:5-8 describes this beautifully:

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

Jesus' humility was not weakness; it was power under control. He had all authority, yet He chose to serve. He washed His disciples' feet (John 13:12-17), a task reserved for the lowest servant, demonstrating that true leadership is found in serving others.

The Importance of Humility in Leadership

1. **Humility Attracts God's Favor**
God honors and exalts those who walk in humility. 1 Peter 5:6 says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." Leaders who humble themselves before God position themselves for His guidance, blessing, and elevation.
2. **Humility Fosters Trust and Influence**
People naturally follow leaders who demonstrate humility. A leader who admits mistakes, listens to feedback, and values others is far more effective than one who demands unquestioning loyalty. As C.S. Lewis said, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."
3. **Humility Strengthens Teamwork and Growth**
A prideful leader may surround themselves with "yes men," but a humble leader cultivates a team where people can grow, contribute, and thrive. Leaders who practice humility empower others, creating a culture of collaboration rather than competition.

4. **Humility Enables Servant Leadership**
Jesus taught that true leadership is servanthood: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:43-45). Effective leaders prioritize the well-being of those they lead, just as Jesus did.

Practical Steps to Lead with Humility

1. **Acknowledge Dependence on God**
Leaders must recognize that their wisdom, strength, and success come from God. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."
2. **Listen More, Speak Less**
Humble leaders value the perspectives of others. James 1:19 advises, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
3. **Admit Mistakes and Seek Forgiveness**
Leaders who openly acknowledge their failures build trust and credibility. Proverbs 28:13 states, "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."
4. **Serve Others Wholeheartedly**
Follow Jesus' example by looking for ways to serve your team, organization, and community.
5. **Give Credit and Elevate Others**
Instead of seeking personal recognition, humble leaders celebrate the success of those around them. Romans 12:10 encourages us to "Honor one another above yourselves."

Quotes on Leading with Humility

- "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge." – Simon Sinek
- "A true leader sees his role as servant, not master." – Rick Warren
- "The best leaders are humble enough to realize their victories depend upon their people." – John C. Maxwell

Conclusion

Leading with humility is not a suggestion—it is a biblical mandate. Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, demonstrated humility in everything He did. As leaders, we must follow His example, rejecting pride and embracing servanthood. True leadership is not about personal status but about lifting others up, fulfilling God's purpose, and reflecting the character of Christ.

As we humble ourselves before God and others, He will exalt us in His perfect time. When we lead with humility, we become not just leaders, but Christlike leaders—servants who make an eternal impact in the lives of those we lead.

PRINCIPLE 18

LEADING WITH HOPE

Hope That Transforms

Above all, Jesus led with hope and offered a promise beyond the struggles of daily life. *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies”* (John 11:25). His words carried an eternal perspective, lifting people beyond their present circumstances and into the realm of faith. This life-giving hope inspired confidence in His followers, prompting them to take bold steps of faith and transform the world around them.

Consider Peter, a fisherman with no formal education or influence. When Jesus called him, he was just an ordinary man. But infused with the hope Jesus provided, Peter became a courageous leader of the early church. When the disciples faced persecution, they clung to Jesus’ promises and pressed forward. That’s the power of hope—it transforms fearful individuals into fearless leaders.

Why Hope is Essential in Leadership

A leader without hope is like a ship without a compass—drifting aimlessly, unable to inspire others toward a destination. Hope is what enables people to endure difficulties, persevere through failures, and envision a better future even in the face of adversity. Leaders who cultivate hope create a culture where resilience flourishes, where obstacles become steppingstones, and where people believe that their work has meaning.

John Maxwell says, *“Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.”* Without hope, people lose

motivation, teams fall apart, and vision fades. Leaders who bring hope breathe life into those they lead, helping them see beyond current struggles to what's possible.

During World War II, Winston Churchill stood as a beacon of hope for a nation under siege. In his famous speech, he declared, *"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end... we shall never surrender."* His unwavering hope inspired a war-torn country to rise and fight for victory. Leadership that provides hope doesn't ignore challenges but sees beyond them to the possibilities ahead.

How to Give People Hope as a Leader

1. **Cast a Vision Beyond the Present** – Great leaders don't just describe what is; they paint a picture of what could be. When Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls, he inspired people with a vision, saying, *"Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace"* (Nehemiah 2:17). He didn't just focus on the broken walls—he focused on restoration.
2. **Speak Life and Encouragement** – Proverbs 18:21 says, *"The tongue has the power of life and death."* A leader's words can either crush the spirit or spark courage. A simple, sincere *"I believe in you"* can be the difference between someone quitting or pressing forward.
3. **Lead by Example in Hope** – People will follow what they see modeled. If a leader remains steadfast in hope during challenges, others will gain confidence. Paul, while imprisoned, wrote, *"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation... I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength"* (Philippians 4:12-13). His hope was contagious, strengthening the early church.

4. **Point to a Greater Source of Hope** – Leaders must recognize that real hope isn't in personal strength or circumstances; it comes from something greater. That brings us to the ultimate source of hope—Jesus.

Jesus: The Source of All Hope

True leadership is not just about giving people hope for temporary success but about directing them to eternal hope. Jesus didn't just promise a better tomorrow—He promised eternal life. His resurrection was the ultimate demonstration that no situation is hopeless when God is involved.

When Jesus fed the five thousand, He didn't just provide food for a moment—He pointed them to Himself, the Bread of Life. When He healed the sick, He didn't just restore health—He revealed His power over sin and death. Jesus led people beyond their immediate needs and into a relationship with God, the source of all hope.

Billy Graham once said, *“My hope does not rest in the affairs of this world. It rests in Christ who is coming again.”* This is the heart of Christian leadership—directing people to the unshakable hope found in Jesus.

Conclusion **A Call to Lead with Hope**

If you want to be a leader who truly impacts lives, lead with hope. Cast vision, encourage others, and model faith in action. But most of all, anchor your leadership in Jesus, the ultimate source of hope. When you do, you won't just inspire people for a season—you'll transform lives for eternity.

Are you leading with hope today?

PRINCIPLE 19

SACRIFICIAL LEADERSHIP

Sacrificial Leadership: The Mark of a True Leader

Sacrifice means, "to give something up for the sake of something of higher value." Sacrificial living—and leading—is about giving up our own lives for the purpose of following Christ. Jesus modeled the perfect sacrificial life by giving His very life for the sins of mankind. This kind of leadership, one that chooses to live for others instead of self, is the highest demonstration of love. Jesus Himself said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-14, NIV).

The Daily Choice of Sacrifice

Sacrificial leadership is not a one-time event but a daily decision. The Apostle Paul urges believers in Romans 12:1: *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."* We are to continually offer ourselves to God, not just in words but in action, as an act of worship for all He has done for us.

Jesus Himself laid out the cost of true discipleship: *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23, NIV). To lead sacrificially means we must first deny ourselves—our plans, desires, and ambitions—and entrust our future into God's hands. Secondly, we must take up our cross daily, understanding that sacrifice is not about comfort but about commitment.

Sacrificial Leadership vs. Worldly Leadership

The world promotes self-gratification, teaching that success is measured by how much you gain, not by how much you give. "If it feels good, do it!" is the mantra of a self-focused culture. However, biblical leadership turns that philosophy upside down. Jesus taught that true greatness comes not from being served but from serving others. *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:43-45, NIV).

Pastor Rick Warren once said, *"The measure of a leader is not how many people serve him, but how many people he serves."* Leaders who embrace sacrificial leadership understand that their position is not for personal gain but for the betterment of others.

The Cost of Sacrifice

Sacrifice is never easy—it comes at a price. It cost God His Son. It cost Jesus His life. And it will cost leaders their comfort, convenience, and sometimes their personal desires. The Apostle Paul reminds us, *"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies"* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NIV).

Nehemiah serves as a powerful example of sacrificial leadership. As governor of Judah, he had every right to demand financial support and special privileges, yet he chose to forgo them for the sake of the people. *"Neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor...Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. In spite of all this, I*

never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people" (Nehemiah 5:14-19, NIV). Nehemiah understood that leadership is not about taking—it is about giving.

The Reward of Sacrificial Leadership

Though sacrificial leadership comes at a cost, God promises a reward. Jesus assured His disciples, *"Truly I tell you...no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age...and in the age to come, eternal life"* (Mark 10:29-30, NIV). What we give up for Christ is never lost—it is invested in His kingdom.

John Maxwell, a renowned leadership expert, puts it this way: *"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."* True leadership is not about privilege; it is about sacrifice. Leaders who invest in their teams, who give of themselves, and who lead with the heart of a servant will leave a lasting impact.

Conclusion

Sacrificial leadership is the highest form of leadership because it mirrors Christ's example. It requires daily surrender, selflessness, and a willingness to serve others. Leaders who adopt this mindset will not only experience personal transformation but will also inspire those they lead to live for something greater than themselves. As Nehemiah prayed, so must we: *"Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people"* (Nehemiah 5:19, NIV). True leadership leaves a legacy—not of self-glory, but of self-giving for the glory of God.

PRINCIPLE 20

LEADING BY FAITH

Finally, lead like Jesus by leading by faith. Even though he was fully God, Jesus relied on His faith in God the Father to navigate the challenges and obstacles of life and demonstrate the power of a life lived in trust and obedience to God.

Leading by faith is the foundational principle of all the other principles of leadership modeled by Jesus. Leading by faith is not following blindly. It is putting your confidence in God and depending on His direction.

In a world shaped by the relentless pursuit of success, profit, power, and money, the idea of leading by faith is seldom considered. Yet, for leaders who wish to carve a path of enduring influence and impact, faith is a critical component. Let's take a look at what leading by faith means and how to lead by faith.

What is Leading by Faith?

Leading with faith has several different applications. We are going to look at 3 ways faith impacts leadership and then spend most of our time on how to lead by faith, looking at what real faith is from a Biblical perspective.

1. Faith – Influences Vision

Faith shapes a leader's vision, regardless of what a person's faith is. As Christians, our faith should lead us to the purposes God has for us. Vision in the Bible refers to the ability to see and understand God's plans and purposes. It's a spiritual insight or revelation given by God that provides direction and purpose.

Vision helps us see beyond our current circumstances to the greater plans God has for us. Faith turns vision into reality through trust and action. Vision and faith are deeply linked in the Bible, working together to accomplish God's purposes. Vision provides the insight and direction from God, while faith is the trust and action required to bring that vision to reality.

2. Faith – Determines the values we live and lead by.

Again, regardless of the type of faith a person has, it will determine the values, morals, and standards by which they conduct themselves. Even if a person says, "I'm not a person of faith," their lack of belief in God is a "faith" based on secular humanistic ideas, which will determine the values they live by as a leader.

As Christians, faith molds our ethical framework, decision-making process, and our approach to handling challenges. It shapes our character, integrity, behavior, and actions, in a Biblical and Godly way. Leading by faith will impact the values by which we lead.

3. Faith – Affects our Relationships

Relationships are all about people. Your faith will have a tremendous effect on how you treat, interact with, and lead people. Leadership is about people. How you treat the people you lead will impact the effectiveness of your leadership.

As Christians, we are taught to love people. We are to value all people. with respect and Leadership is about people – influencing and impacting lives in a positive way. To be an effective leader, one needs to have a genuine desire to serve others. We need Servant Leaders in our world today – leadership that models and prioritizes the needs of the people before self. Whether you are a religious leader, corporate leader, or political leader, the needs and well-being of the people must be your foremost concern.

HOW TO LEAD BY FAITH

Leadership rooted in faith begins with character. Christian men are called to reflect Christ's character, living with integrity, humility, and compassion. We can't lead others where we haven't gone ourselves. And even when we do so imperfectly, we still strive to move forward by the grace of God. Where God has led us, we can show others the path. Paul put it this way: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). To be effective leaders, we must first be followers — dedicated disciples of Jesus.

So, before we can lead others by faith we need to be able to lead ourselves by faith. So, before we give some specifics of how to lead by faith let's first make sure we understand what faith is and how to live our lives by faith.

Leading with faith transforms doubt into determination and obstacles into opportunities for growth and triumph. Faith-led leadership opens the door for the impossible. Faith provides leaders with a clear sense of purpose and direction. Faith is a foundational element in biblical leadership, serving as both a

guiding principle and a source of strength for leaders throughout Scripture.

What is faith?

Faith is trusting God. Faith is based upon the Word of God. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing from the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17) Faith is not what we feel or see. “We walk by faith and not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7) Faith is not hope. Faith is not a religion. Faith is not the future. Faith is now. Faith is believing with the heart and speaking it with your mouth. (2 Corinthians 4:13) Faith is being fully persuaded that God will do what He said He would do. (Romans 4:21) Faith is how you please God. (Hebrews 11:6)

Faith is how you are saved. (Ephesians 2:8) Faith is how you receive anything from God. Faith is a fight. The devil and the world want to destroy your faith. “The thief (the devil) comes to steal, kill, and destroy...” (John 10:10) Paul encourages us, “to fight the good fight of faith”. (1 Timothy 6:12) Faith begins with Jesus and ends with Jesus. He is the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) Faith is taking action. “Faith without works (corresponding action) is dead.” (James 2:17) I challenge you to trust God, believe His Word, and take action accordingly. Do be moved by the circumstances, what you see or feel. Instead, believe what the Word of God says, don’t waver, or give up. God is faithful and He watches over His Word to perform it.

Living by faith.

The Bible tells us as believers to “live by faith”. In fact, we find this very command four times in the Bible in four different books of the Bible, in both the Old and New

Testaments; Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. As Christians we first must first live our lives by faith and then lead with faith. Until you are living by faith you won't be able to lead by faith.

Living by faith means not being swayed by popular opinion, fleeting emotions, or human reasoning. It requires a daily reliance on God, trusting in His faithfulness and sovereignty (Psalm 37:5). It's a continual process of growth and maturity in faith, where believers understand that God is actively working within them and through them (Philippians 1:6).

Living by faith is not the same thing as being a person of faith or being faithful to a set of religious beliefs. It's not a matter of just having faith. Every believer has faith. (Romans 12:3) Living by faith is not about becoming a believer even though it does take faith to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8) There are many born again believers who are saved, love the Lord, and have faith, but they **don't** live their lives by faith.

Faith is an action word. To live by faith you're thinking, and speaking, the Word which will then produce actions that correspond to God's Word.

What is Leading by Faith?

When we say "leading by faith" we are talking about USING FAITH to lead. Our faith is an important part of who we are as a leader because it provides the foundation of who we are; our character, our values, and our purpose, but to lead like Jesus we need to learn how to use our faith to influence and help us in what we do and how we function as leaders.

Every decision we make as leaders need to be a function of “faith”. This means praying, asking the Lord for direction and wisdom, believing and trusting God to help you communicate, implement, and accomplish all that you are doing as a leader. It means having the Word of God as the basis of your decisions and standing firm. When you lead with faith you trust God for the impossible. You hold fast, stay steady, never give up. (Hebrews 10:23, Galatians 6:9) You are able to “speak to the mountains (obstacles) to be removed and cast out of the way. (Mark 11:23) You don’t worry and cast all your cares upon the Lord. (1 Peter 5:7) You live at peace and rest. (Matthew 11:28)

You use your faith to; choose staff, for developing vision, for building projects and expansions, you use faith for finances and budgets, to overcome challenges and setbacks, and every other part of leadership.

Using faith to lead means you understand you are steward of what God has entrusted to you and everything that is done is for the glory of God. Leading by faith means you prioritize time in God’s Word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers. You allow God to work in you and through shaping and refining your heart and aligning your priorities with His. Not out of our strength but out of our dependence on Him.

5 Practical Tips for Leaders to Enhance Leadership Through Faith

1. **Start Each Day God and His Word:** Begin each day by grounding yourself in prayer and scripture study. I call it the “Breakfast of Champions”. This daily ritual is more than a routine; it’s a profound engagement with spiritual

wisdom that offers guidance, clarity, and a solid foundation for the day's decisions and interactions. By dedicating these first moments of the day to connect with God, leaders can align their thoughts and actions with divine guidance, ensuring that their leadership is not only effective but also spiritually anchored. If we want God's direction in our lives, we must be intentional about creating a space for daily meetings with Him.

2. **Commit to Making Godly Decisions:** Leadership requires crucial decision-making, often under pressure. It is essential to ensure that these decisions reflect Christian values such as integrity, honesty, fairness and compassion. This alignment fosters an environment of trust and respect, not just within the team but also with clients and stakeholders. By consistently applying Christian ethics and values in decision-making, leaders can build a reputation for reliability and moral leadership, setting a positive example for others to follow. There is no room for compromise for those who lead by faith.
3. **Build Relationships with Other Leaders of Faith:** Establishing connections with other leaders who share our faith can be incredibly enriching. Such a community offers a platform for sharing experiences, seeking advice and prayer, and encouraging one another in faith and leadership challenges. This network serves as a valuable resource for mutual support, accountability, wisdom, and inspiration, helping leaders to stay grounded in their faith while navigating the complexities of their professional roles.

4. **Blend Biblical Wisdom and Contemporary Insights:** Leaders should engage in continuous learning, drawing from both Biblical leadership principles and modern leadership theories. This approach involves not only understanding the timeless lessons from Biblical figures but also staying abreast of current leadership trends and practices. Such a well-rounded knowledge base enables leaders to navigate the modern business landscape with insights that are both spiritually grounded and practically relevant. A key element here is to apply discernment, not everything that trends should be followed. The values of a leader should be unshakeable.
5. **Prioritize a Balance Life:** It is vital for leaders to embrace periods of rest amidst their professional duties. This approach involves dedicating time for spiritual revival and family connections, recognizing that rest is not just a pause from work, but a divinely ordained time for renewal and contemplation. By incorporating restful periods into their routine, leaders can ensure that their professional endeavors are continually refreshed and guided by their faith and family values. This practice is not about dividing time between work and faith but about enriching one's leadership with the restorative power of rest. To be able to effectively lead with faith, leaders need to be on guard and prioritize living a balanced life between work, ministry, family, recreation, and rest.

Closing

Leading with faith is more than a concept—it is a calling. By following the model of Jesus Christ, leaders can foster environments where integrity, trust, and purpose thrive, ultimately reflecting God’s kingdom on earth. Integrating faith into our leadership role isn’t just about bringing personal beliefs into the workplace; it’s about shaping a leadership style that is ethical, compassionate, and effective. It is about using faith in all that we do as leaders. As Christian leaders, we have the opportunity to inspire and influence others not just through our words, but through our actions and decisions, rooted in Him. Leading like Jesus means leading with faith.

HOW TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER

Introduction

Becoming a better leader is not reserved for the select few born with innate charisma or authority. It is a journey of personal development and growth that anyone can embark upon. The key lies in recognizing and nurturing the leader within ourselves, harnessing our potential to influence and inspire others.

Imagine a small-town pastor, who, through dedication and passion, transformed a struggling congregation into a vibrant community hub. His journey wasn't marked by grand gestures but by daily choices to listen, to learn, and to lead with empathy. This pastor's story underscores a crucial truth: leadership is cultivated through intentional effort and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Why It is Important to Develop Your Leadership Skills

Leadership is not merely about issuing commands or exerting authority. It is about empowering others, navigating challenges with grace, and fostering an environment where everyone can thrive. Developing leadership skills is essential because it enables us to positively impact our surroundings, whether in business, community service, or personal relationships. Strong leadership fosters innovation, enhances team cohesion, and drives collective achievement towards shared goals.

How to Become a Better Leader:

John Maxwell, in his seminal work "Developing the Leader in You," outlines foundational principles that propel individuals towards effective leadership. Maxwell emphasizes the importance of self-awareness, stating, "Leadership begins with understanding who you are and what you bring to the table." This self-awareness forms the bedrock upon which other leadership traits such as integrity, vision, and resilience are built.

Maxwell further advocates for continuous learning and growth. He asserts, "Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another." This mindset challenges leaders to invest in themselves, constantly refining their skills and expanding their knowledge base.

Quotes and Insights from Other Leadership Authors

Drawing from various leadership sources, such as Simon Sinek's "Start with Why" and Patrick Lencioni's "The Five Dysfunctions of a Team," reinforces the multifaceted nature of effective leadership. Sinek posits, "People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it." This principle underscores the significance of purpose-driven leadership, aligning actions with a compelling vision that resonates with others.

Lencioni emphasizes the importance of trust within teams, stating, "Trust is the foundation of real teamwork." Building trust requires authenticity, transparency, and a commitment to mutual respect—a leader's ability to foster trust determines their team's cohesion and performance.

Becoming a Leader like Jesus

Ultimately, the pinnacle of leadership is exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ. His servant leadership model, characterized by humility, compassion, and sacrificial love, serves as the ultimate benchmark for aspiring leaders. Jesus empowered his disciples not through coercion but by equipping them with knowledge, guidance, and unwavering support.

To lead like Jesus is to prioritize others' well-being, to seek wisdom from above, and to serve with a heart of humility. It requires a commitment to integrity, a passion for justice, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As we endeavor to become better leaders, let us emulate Jesus' example, striving to impact our world positively and leaving a lasting legacy of transformation.

In conclusion, becoming a better leader is within reach for anyone willing to embark on the journey of self-discovery, growth, and service. By investing in our leadership development, drawing from timeless principles and insights, and aspiring to lead like Jesus, we can maximize our potential and inspire others to do the same. Leadership is not just a skill set—it is a calling to influence, innovate, and inspire change for the betterment of all.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we conclude this journey of learning to lead like Jesus, let us reflect on the timeless wisdom we have uncovered. Leadership, as exemplified by Jesus Christ, is not merely a position of authority but a profound responsibility to serve with humility, a compelling vision, compassion, mercy, unwavering perseverance, and faith through a committed leadership team.

We have explored how Jesus approached leadership and studied His example of leadership. His teachings and actions provide us with a blueprint for leading with integrity and inspiring those around us through love and selflessness.

As you embark on your own leadership journey, may you carry forward the lessons learned here. May you lead not with the desire for recognition or power, but with a servant's heart that seeks to uplift, empower, and bring hope to those you lead.

Let this book serve as a reminder that the path of leadership is not always easy, but with faith as our compass and love as our guiding light, we can emulate the greatest leader of all time—Jesus Christ.

In closing, may your leadership be a reflection of His grace, and may it inspire others to follow in His footsteps. May you find strength in His teachings, courage in His example, and joy in the privilege of serving others as He did.

Go forth with faith, lead with love, and may God bless you abundantly on your journey to lead like Jesus.

Amen.

About the Author

Bruce Edwards is a pastor, teacher, and author with over 40 years of leadership experience in business and ministry. He has been married to his wife Trudy for over 50 years. They have two children and 6 grandchildren.

He has a master's degree in business management and a degree in pastoral ministry. He served over 28 years at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma as Senior Associate Pastor. He has written over 30 books and helps pastors grow their churches.

As a pastor, he has a passion for helping people experience the abundant life provided through Jesus and is committed to teaching and communicating the principles of God's Word with clarity,



LEARNING TO LEAD LIKE JESUS

20 principles of leadership

*"I have given you an example to follow.
Do as I have done to you." John 13:15*

Next Generation Leaders for Christ

Bruce R. Edwards