

What is servant leadership? What were the characteristics of Jesus' leadership while on earth? How does His model compare with the style of leaders today? How did Jesus take ordinary men and turn them into leaders? What can we take from this and turn into "salt and light" in our own lives?

## **“Follow Me” Jesus as a Leadership Model**

Material offered at the OSU Faculty/Staff Christian Fellowship Meetings, November 21 and 28, 2007, by Lois de Geus.

**(Lois' note about the content of this document:** When preparing to facilitate this topic, I searched my personal journal, and the internet, for passages that might shed light on the topic or provide inspiration to others. If the article was from the internet, I've noted that and provided the URL and information about the author. For entries from my journal, I've preserved the book and author's name, however the content I've written could be verbatim or my paraphrasing of meaningful passages. Entries from my journal were never intended to be published; it is a personal journal. Please enjoy this material in the context of our discussion, or for your personal study. This document is not intended for distribution in any manner that would be contrary to an author's copyrighted privileges.)

### **Verses for us to consider:**

Mark 10:42-45 “And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you, *but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant*; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”

Romans 12:6-8 “God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking God's word, make sure what you say agrees with the Christian faith. If your gift is serving, then devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If it is encouraging others, devote yourself to giving encouragement. If it is sharing, be generous. *If it is leadership, lead enthusiastically.* If it is helping people in need, help them cheerfully.” (New American Standard Bible says, “he who leads, (do so) with *diligence.*”)

### **What is leadership? It has been defined as:**

- A leader is someone who has followers.
- Influence, both with followers and outside that circle.
- Integrity may or may not be present.

### **Anyone can be in a position to lead:**

You can influence and persuade. You can give information. You can tell people what the impact of their behavior will have on you. You can provide guidelines or warnings. You can be a role model. You can help create an environment in which people choose to perform.

### **What are the characteristics of Jesus' public ministry?**

- He traveled to people (he didn't wait for them to come)
- He taught everywhere (not just in church)
- He healed people of sickness and disease
- What else? – Let's explore this together.

### **Which OSU leader defines leadership this way?**

“Leaders are meaning makers and place makers. They make meaning of relationships by adding strength, power and substance. They bring order to chaos; foster connections among the isolated; give audibility to the voiceless; visibility to the invisible; and pull the marginalized into the center.

Leaders embrace responsibilities. They name and own institutional problems; they are change agents; they model hope and optimism; they do the personal work necessary to lead. They have a commitment to personal growth and to developing the skills needed. Essential skills: capacity for empathy, listen unconditionally, struggle, care, dreaming and visioning.

To do it right, a leader: has love for those led; experiences pain at the failure of others; exposes her soul in relationships; stays true during the difficult moments; and takes risks to show how much he cares.”

### **LEADERSHIP, JESUS-STYLE**

by Lee Ann Rubsam.

<http://www.characterbuildingforfamilies.com/leadership.html>

In this article on the internet, Lee Ann Rubsam observes, “Leaders keep their eyes open for ways to serve -- even very small ways. They see the need and meet it, rather than waiting for someone else to do it. Aimee Semple McPherson used to watch for upcoming leaders by leaving crumpled bits of paper lying around and then waiting to see who would notice and pick them up.

Leaders don't think certain tasks are beneath their dignity to perform. Jesus commented, "He who is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much .... And if you have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16: 10, 12). Jesus washed feet. Leaders clean restrooms and serve in the nursery, and they do it with joy, because they have a heart to serve. They want to make life better for somebody else.”

### **GOOD TO GREAT**

By Jim Collins

Premise of book: that good is the enemy of great, and that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great. Few people attain great lives principally because it is just so easy to settle for the good life. The vast majority of companies never become great, precisely because the vast majority become quite good. Can a good company turn

itself into a great company? Jim Collins went through a 5-year research project to explore companies that made the leap from good results to great results and sustained those results for at least 15 years. The companies were compared to a carefully selected control group of comparison companies that failed to make the leap, or if they did, failed to sustain it. They then compared the good-to-great companies to the comparison companies to discover the essential and distinguishing factors at work.

One of the findings of the project was that larger-than-life celebrity leaders who ride in from the outside are negatively correlated with taking a company from good to great. Ten of eleven good-to-great CEOs came from inside the company, whereas the comparison companies tried outside CEOs six times more often. Self-effacing, quiet, reserved, even shy—these leaders are a *paradoxical blend of personal humility and professional will*.

There are many more interesting findings in this book, and I'd encourage you to read further. For the purposes of our time together, I'm focusing on the characteristics of the successful leader, and correlating that with Jesus' leadership style.

Two other important findings that relate to our conversation:

1. First who, then what. Good-to-great leaders got the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats, and THEN figured out where to drive it. "People are your most important asset" turns out to be wrong. People are not your most important asset. The *right* people are.
2. Confront the brutal facts: you must maintain unwavering faith that you can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties, AND at the same time have the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.

The great leaders were all individuals who blend extreme personal humility with intense professional will. They displayed fierce resolve to do whatever needed to be done to make the company great. They channeled their ego needs away from themselves and into the larger goal of building a great company. It's not that these leaders have no ego or self-interest, and indeed they are incredibly ambitious—but their ambition is first and foremost for the institution, not themselves.

These leaders are a study in duality: modest and willful, humble and fearless. Think of Abraham Lincoln, who never let his ego get in the way of his primary ambition for the larger cause of an enduring great nation—he is an example of the type of leader we're talking about.

The key trait is ambition first and foremost for the company and concern for its success rather than for one's own riches and personal renown. They want to see the company even more successful in the next generation, comfortable with the idea that most people won't even know that the roots of that success trace back to their efforts. As one good-to-great leader said, "I want to look out from my porch at one of the great companies in the world someday and be able to say, "I used to work there.'" In contrast, comparison

leaders, concerned more with their own reputation for personal greatness, often failed to set the company up for success in the next generation. After all, what better testament to your own personal greatness than that the place falls apart after you leave?

In over ¾ of the comparison companies, they found executives who set their successors up for failure or chose weak successors, or both.

Good-to-great leaders didn't talk about themselves. They have a compelling modesty. They are not I-centric. They don't talk about themselves. They credit their people. Words used to describe: quiet, humble, modest, reserved, shy, gracious, mild-mannered, self-effacing, understated, did not believe his own clippings.

They rarely found articles that focused on the good-to-great leaders, as they never wanted to become larger than life. Never aspired to be put on a pedestal. They were seemingly ordinary people quietly producing extraordinary results.

It is not just about humility and modesty—it is equally about ferocious resolve, an almost stoic determination to do whatever needs to be done to make the company great. They have a incurable need to produce results.

These leaders look out the window to apportion credit to factors outside themselves when things go well (and if they can't find a specific person or even to credit, they credit good luck). At the same time, they look in the mirror to apportion responsibility, never blaming bad luck when things go poorly.

The Two Sides of Level 5 Leadership	
Professional Will	Personal Humility
Creates superb results, a clear catalyst in the transition from good to great.	Demonstrates a compelling modesty, shunning public adulation; never boastful.
Demonstrates an unwavering resolve to do whatever must be done to produce the best long term results, no matter how difficult.	Acts with quiet, calm determination; relies principally on inspired standards, not inspiring charisma, to motivate.
Sets the standard of building an enduring great company; will settle for nothing less.	Channels ambition into the company; not the self; sets up successors for even greater success in the next generation.
Looks in the mirror, not out the window, to apportion responsibility for poor results, never blaming other people, external factors, or bad luck.	Looks out the window, not in the mirror, to apportion credit for the success of the company—to other people, external factors, and good luck.

**JESUS' LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF TRAINING HIS DISCIPLES**

<http://www.eldrbarry.net/ug/8and7.pdf>

Summarized by Barry McWilliams, March, 2003

God has a master plan for reaching and transforming a lost world. Jesus came with the purpose of reclaiming the world with the Gospel. His plan is simple and profound -take twelve ordinary men, give them three years of training through association with Him, observing and obeying and send them out equipped with the Word, prayer and the Holy Spirit to reproduce disciples, That is the Lord's program, and it is reaching the world.

Jesus could have made a play for the masses and sought to usher in the kingdom by popular acclaim. The early days of His ministry saw great multitudes drawn to Him. (Mark 1:28,33,45; 4:1) Yet He discouraged mass movements, downplayed Himself publicly, revealing Himself to His disciples and these who believed instead of the religious leaders, political powers and the masses of the curious. Those who had messianic expectations were disappointed- He made no effort to raise up a following, seize power, overthrow Rome. In fact He made demands in His preaching that turned away many and alienated the establishment. His plan rested on the few men He had chosen. The Lord knew that quality of discipleship and not quantity of disciples was more important. Before the masses could be reached and taught and ministered to there must be leadership to minister. One man cannot carry the load of the whole world- first a foundation must be laid. Jesus concentrated on His disciples for good reasons. Disciples - not converts - was His goal.

**The Master Plan of Evangelism**, by Robert Coleman is a tremendous study of Jesus' method of building disciples. The leadership training principles that He used were simple, logical and full of wisdom. They are the principles that He passed on to the Church. The following eight principles are a summary of Coleman's book. It is highly recommended, only 126 pages, still available as inexpensive paperback after 30 years.

1. **Selection:** He chose a few faithful, available, teachable (FAT) disciples. (Luke 6:13-17, Mark 3:13-19). They weren't scholars, men with special talents, just ordinary men who he could shape and mould into leaders. He did not spread Himself too thin.
2. **Association:** He devoted His time to them, even in the midst of ministry to the masses. They were with him in all sorts of situations -called to simply "be with Him" and "follow Him".
3. **Consecration:** He called them to obedience- to turn away from sin and sacrifice their own personal interests- to turn to Him and His teaching. He called them to commit themselves not to a doctrine or program, but to His person.
4. **Impartation** -He gave Himself to them and for them. The foundation of their relationship to Him was His love and self denial. He lived discipleship before them on a daily basis and there was no limit to His love for them. His commitment to them, and giving of Himself for them was the motivation of their giving themselves totally for Him.
5. **Demonstration:** He taught them by showing them. All the disciples had to teach them was a teacher who practiced with them what He expected them to learn. So they learned to pray by hearing Him pray, learned how to use the Word by observing His handling of it, learned how to minister by watching Him

- ministering. They became evangelists by His demonstrations of evangelism. Discipleship is easier caught than taught.
6. **Delegation:** He put them to work. (Mark 6:7, Matt 10:5, Luke 9:1-2) They assisted Him as He ministered; gradually He sent them out two by two. The instructions He gave them are most interesting, revealing how even this was a part of their preparation as His disciples.
  7. **Supervision:** He kept check on them and used their experiences to instruct them further. (Mark 6:30) This was “on the job training” at its best. They were given adequate room to work and learn, yet never without His concern and guidance as it was needed.
  8. **Reproduction:** it is clear that He intended them to become disciplers. The church is like the mustard seed, it starts out small- yet we expect it to grown bigger than the crops around it. John 15:1-17 the branch abiding in the vine must bear fruit. The wisdom and strength of His methodology stands out. He chose those who were teachable, and devoted him self to them. He established a relationship based on commitment to Him on their parts, and His commitment to them on His. He showed them how, and then sent them out to learn by doing, using their successes and failures to make them into men able to do what He was doing with them.

### **WHO IS THIS JESUS?**

By Michael Green

*He was such delightful company.* People walked miles to be with Him. And they were folk from widely different backgrounds that normally would have had nothing in common. He cheerfully broke the taboos that kept people apart in Judaism’s highly structured society. He mixed with top people and street people with equal ease. He was at home in the tavern just as He was in the temple. He could win the adoration of the crowd, yet loved solitary and simple settings.

He was an inspiration to the uneducated and intellectuals alike. Women were welcomed as an important part of His movement: He respected them, and they were devoted to Him. Jesus was sometimes to be found by little children, bouncing delightedly upon His knee. He held them up as examples to grown men and women whereas normal religious leaders were too solemn and self-important to view them as anything but an intrusion.

*He made God real.* He was intensely aware of God. To Him, God was not some absentee world ruler but His Father with who He was in constant touch. Jesus lived so close to His unseen yet intensely real heavenly Father that He provided an unclouded window into God. Many who met Jesus felt they had come into contact with God, and they loved it. The God that Jesus embodied was so attractive, so fair, so loving, and so altogether beautiful that they found themselves attracted to Him. Jesus had made God truly accessible for the first time in their lives.

*His life was matchless.* The sheer quality of Jesus’ life shines as an ideal for all humanity. There is no vice that shows up in His character. There is no virtue that He did not have. We read of His getting exhausted in the service of others but never of His

turning them away. His joy, His vitality, His passionate uprightness, His constant outgoing care, and the power that attended both His teaching and His actions—all demonstrated that every individual matters to God. There has never been such an example of unselfish love, tirelessly poured out for others. He has proved an impossible act for anyone to follow.

*His teaching was authoritative.* Here is a man who did not speculate about the things of God. He knew. And people recognized it.

*His actions spelled power.* The authority of His deeds indicated His power: challenging the high priest's domain by breaking up the crooked market that had developed at the temple; healing people; driving out dark forces; telling a storm to cease; feeding the multitudes.

*His freedom was complete.* Born into a working class family, He was entirely free of social prejudice. He appeared to be in complete control of His circumstances, but he was not arrogant. He believed in the Old Testament, and yet He felt free to reinterpret its general precepts. He was no slave to the system. He was a liberator. He freed people from guilt and from a low self-image. He released people from fear.

*His love was universal.* Nobody taught about it like Jesus. Love for His friends and disciples; love for the unlovely; love for the bad lots of society; love for the helpless. Not some of the time; all of it. Not some people; but everyone.

### **SEVEN REFLECTIONS ON JESUS' LEADERSHIP STYLE**

<http://www.teal.org.uk/leadership/definition.htm>

The Teal Trust (United Kingdom) – a website devoted to assisting with Christian leadership qualities

**The Disciples.** Taking the list given in Matthew (10:2-4), work through your knowledge of the 12, writing down for each their skills/experiences, and also their character traits. What would you see as the strengths and weaknesses of choosing this particular team of 12? How does Jesus bond them together into a cohesive team?

**Sending out of the 12 and the 72.** (Luke 9 to Luke 10:24). Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples out at this stage of his ministry? What was Jesus' possibly trying to achieve by it? What relevance to the narratives of the feeding of the five thousand and Peter's confession of Christ have to the sending out of the twelve? Why do you think Jesus sent the 72 out in pairs? What might we surmise from Jesus sending out the 12 before sending out the 72?

**Jesus the Teacher.** Jesus taught throughout the gospels - to the crowds, to individuals such as Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the rich young ruler, and to the disciples. Following through Luke's gospel, look at each time Jesus was teaching, and jot down the context (individual / disciples / group) and his style (formal / parable / individual

discipling). Finally reflect on your own teaching, and the range of contexts and styles that you use.

**Clearing the Temple.** (John 2: 12-22) This gospel account suggests that Jesus' driving out of the money lenders was a pre-meditated action. He went up to the Temple and was appalled at what he found. He then made a whip from cords and drove the merchants and their cattle from the Temple area, and overturned the tables of the money changers. What does this tell us about Jesus' leadership style? In what situations might we be prepared to adopt a similar approach?

**The Road to Emmaus** (Luke 24:13-35) In walking along with the Cleopas and his companion, Jesus met them at their point of need, journeyed with them, teaching them as he did so, without them recognizing him. Can you think of leadership situations where you might walk alongside others, gently and almost imperceptibly teaching and leading them.

**With Pilate** (Luke 23:1-25, John 18:28 - 19:16) One of the traits of a leader is their ability to influence others; by their words, by their actions, and by their character. In what ways does Jesus influence Pilate? What does this have to suggest about the nature of Christian leadership?

**The Great Commission** (Matthew 28:16-end, Acts 1:1-11) Jesus leaves his disciples with the commission to spread the good news throughout the world. In this commission, Jesus gives vision (what they will achieve) and strategy (how they should achieve the vision). Re-read the passages, separating out the vision Jesus lays before the disciples and the strategies he urges them to follow. We also see Jesus choosing strategies throughout his ministry, in choosing ordinary people to be his disciples, and in standing outside the established church.

### **LIVING ON THE RAGGED EDGE - A Study of Ecclesiastes**

By Charles Swindoll

Characteristics of a wise leader: a clear mind, clarity of purpose and objectives, knows the “hows” and “whys,” has a cheerful disposition, a discreet mouth, keen judgment, good timing, calm and steady resolve, godly discernment, stable under pressure, independent intuition, a humble and teachable spirit, and dependence on the Lord for guidance.

We must never forget the value of being a role model, and we must never lose the vision of seeing a cycle (i.e. preparing others for future leadership positions.)

It is inexcusable for leaders to take unfair advantage of those under their charge. The Lord promises that leaders who do this will be punished in this life, the next one, or both.

### **WHAT IF WE WORKED FOR JESUS?**

By Mark Safferstone

<http://www.new-life.net/work4jes.htm>

(Internet note: Mark is a member of New Life, holds a doctorate in Business Education, and teaches as a professor at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va.)

In this internet article, Mark Safferstone makes these points:

“Given our lack of confidence in worldly leaders, the thought occurred to me, what if we worked for Jesus? What kind of leader would He be? As I read the Book of Mark, along with reviewing parts of Matthew, Luke and John, five aspects of Jesus’ leadership style emerged, consequently, making him an excellent boss. Jesus challenged the process, created a vision, enabled others to act, modeled the way and encouraged the heart. Let me describe each of these in more detail and provide scriptural and practical examples of what it would be like if Jesus was our boss.

### **Challenging the process**

Jesus was not satisfied with the status quo. He took tremendous risks in an effort to change men’s minds and hearts. In Mark chapter 11 verses 15 - 18 we read that *On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations' But you have made it a 'den of robbers.'"* *The chief priests and teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.*

This passage provides us with a powerful example of Jesus’ unwillingness to tolerate an accepted practice, openly converting currency for excessive profit in the Court of the Gentiles. He was offended by those conducting business activities in His Father’s house. As a boss, Jesus would expect us to act with honor and integrity, as well as think in innovative and creative ways. Jesus would challenge us to approach all that we do with a pioneer’s spirit – improving or finding new solutions to difficult problems. He would expect us to examine our daily activities, determining their value and priority. If we are doing something that does not bring honor and glory to His kingdom, He would expect us to confess our sin, receive forgiveness, then radically change our ways, seeking counsel and accountability as needed.

### **Inspiring a vision**

Possessing Godly wisdom and discernment, Jesus tried to create Heaven on Earth, something that he hoped his followers would ultimately accept as their responsibility. Jesus breathed life into others’ hopes and dreams. In Mark chapter 1 verses 14 - 18 we learn that *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed*

him.

In Jesus' day, it was expected that a son would follow in his father's footsteps, eventually taking over the family business, so to speak. Simon and Andrew's career change was not a simple decision, one which, I am sure, was neither understood nor easily accepted by their father. As a leader, this verse shows us Jesus' ability to motivate others to take action, even though the details are unclear. It demonstrates His ability to inspire us in ways we can't imagine, trusting in Him for all of our needs.

### **Enabling others to act**

Jesus enlisted the support of those who would live with the results of His ministry on Earth. He built a strong team, encouraged unity and created a sense of ownership. In Mark chapter 3 verses 13 - 15 we read that *Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve – designating them apostles – that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*

From this passage, we can see that Jesus would be extremely successful in today's business environment. He would carefully select a reasonable number of dedicated men to work with. From other passages we know that Jesus selected a diverse group of individuals who possessed a variety of skills and personalities and that Jesus, at least initially, would trust them. Jesus would spend a great deal of time with this group, training them both individually and as a team. He would give them significant responsibility, patiently and continuously coaching them and providing feedback – encouragement – on their performance. If Jesus' teachings were difficult to grasp, He would invite his team to question Him until they understood completely.

### **Modeling the way**

Jesus' actions spoke louder than his words – He practiced what He preached. He led by example and it was His words and His actions that earned the respect of others. In John chapter 8 verses 3 - 11 we read that *The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say. They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them. "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Again, he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left with the woman standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

This passage demonstrates Jesus' ability to act in accordance with His beliefs while, at the same time, holding others accountable for their actions. Consequently, working for Jesus could be difficult. Meetings would start and end as scheduled. Phone calls would be

promptly returned. Reports would be accurate and submitted on time. The check book would always balance to the penny. The network would never go down! Problems would be anticipated and solutions would be proposed. And, yes, customer complaints would be welcomed, thoroughly investigated, and solved, to the satisfaction of the customer. Jesus would act according to his beliefs and He would expect us to do the same.

### **Encouraging the heart**

Jesus, the model servant leader, recognized other's needs and aided them through genuine acts of caring. As I read the Book of Mark, there are numerous examples of Jesus' compassion and sensitivity. He drives out evil spirits, heals the sick and the paralyzed, and restores sight. He senses His disciples' fear, calming a storm and feeding thousands in need. Through these acts of kindness, we see Jesus tirelessly serving others, and doing so with great humility. Given the legalistic attitude and behavior of the Pharisees, Jesus' ministry must have been a true source of hope and encouragement for all who came to know and love Him.

If we worked for Jesus, He would be aware of our contributions and would continuously appreciate and recognize our accomplishments.”

### **FOLLOW ME**

Major John Cross, United States Army / Officers' Christian Fellowship  
[http://ocf.gospelcom.net/pubs/follow\\_me.php](http://ocf.gospelcom.net/pubs/follow_me.php)

In this article on the internet, Major John Cross notes, “As a Christian officer in the military today, I need only look to Jesus for the example to follow. Jesus provides the premier lesson on leadership by focusing on three areas: serving others, doing the will of His Father, and forsaking the world's view of leadership.

### **Serve Others**

Serving others may sound like an odd way to lead. If we're appointed as leaders, people are supposed to obey our orders and follow us. Servant leadership is not new to this age, but can be traced back to first-century Judea. In Mark's Gospel account, Jesus redefined leadership for His disciples.

This redefinition came on the heels of a request by James and John to be seated on the right and left of Jesus in Heaven. Upon hearing of the brothers' request, the other disciples became upset and began to quarrel. Jesus gathered them and said, "...'whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all'" (Mark 10:44 RSV).

Serve others if you want to lead. This new concept was hard to swallow then and still is today, because of the self-focused tendency of human nature.

The key to serving others is to have a humble heart. Jesus provides the example of a humble heart and servant leadership at the Last Supper.

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him" (John 13:3-5).

Jesus' humility came from the facts that He knew who He was, where He was going, and what He needed to do. He did not "put on airs" or flaunt the fact that He was the Son of God. He told His disciples earlier, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). By the power of the Holy Spirit and through prayer, we too can have a humble heart and serve others, as Christ would have us do.

### **Seek the Father's Will**

The second part of Jesus' leadership lesson was that he constantly sought to do His Father's will. He continually sought secluded places in order to pray and to seek His Father's will. Jesus was accountable to His Father and had to get one-on-one time with His Father to ensure that He, Jesus, did His Father's will.

While Jesus introduced new paradigms to fulfill the old ways, He was operating fully within the guidance and intent of His Father. This could only be done because Jesus took the time out of his daily schedule to seek the will of His Father.

### **Seek Jesus as a Role Model**

The third aspect of Jesus' leadership style deals with the world's idea of leadership. The world's view on leadership today has not changed much since the days of Jesus. Many leaders in the world seek positions of leadership in order to exercise authority and esteem themselves as better than the people they are leading.

These attitudes can be seen in how they interact with others and how they seek to keep themselves in power. Dictators often build networks of terror to maintain power while living in the lap of luxury. This type of behavior does not occur only in despotic countries of the third world. America has its share of leaders who seek to stay at the top of their organizations by any means, in the corporate world, in politics, and even in the military.

Whether it is the Romans of the first four centuries A.D., the Papacy during the Middle Ages, or the efforts of several European states to exert power in the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, man has constantly sought to lead others in a manner that subjugates the weak.

This style of leadership often resulted in rebellion and revolt. The conquered tribes of Northern Europe revolted against the Roman Empire, Protestant Reformers rebelled against the Church of Rome, the American colonies revolted against Great Britain, and the people of France revolted against the King, all as a response to "lording leadership."

How can we, as Christian leaders, apply Christ's lessons to our own lives? First, we should see leadership and command as opportunities to serve the people who serve our Armed Forces and the country. With Jesus by our side, we do not have to rely upon our strength alone, but can fully rely upon Him.

The Apostle Paul writes, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). Second, we should seek God and His will every day. Daily prayer and meditation is key to remaining in God's will for us. This can be done through the use of a "quiet time" or other method of prayer and scriptural meditation.

Finally, by focusing on Jesus as our leadership example, we too can disregard the world's idea of leadership and, like Him, have a clear, focused vision of what God would have us do. While we may never have to give our lives as a ransom for many, we should be prepared to do so. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we should not look to be served, but to serve."

### **GOD AT WORK**

(Decision Magazine, July/August 2004)

Bill Pollard, CEO of Servicemaster, notes, "The workplace is an environment where the way you live is under great scrutiny. So when you share your faith, if the integrity of your life corresponds with that, there is credibility. If it doesn't, there is a huge glitch. You can't be a lousy employee and expect that your faith will be credible. Also, you are going to make mistakes, and you will need to be transparent. At times you are going to have to ask for forgiveness; you are going to have to be a genuine person. It's not easy for us to be genuine, especially when one becomes a leader, because leaders aren't supposed to make mistakes. But genuineness is very important.

### **THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE**

By Rick Warren

Day 35: At some point in your life you must decide if you want to *impress* people or *influence* people. You can impress people from a distance, but you must be close to influence them, and when you do that, they will be able to see your flaws. That's OK. The most essential quality for leadership is not perfection, but credibility. You build credibility by being honest.

### **JESUS CEO - USING ANCIENT WISDOM FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP**

By Laurie Beth Jones

Table of Contents:

#### ***Strength of Self-Mastery Section***

He said "I Am"

His "I Am" statements are what he became.

He kept in constant contact with his boss.

He stuck to his mission.

He believed in himself.

He had internal anchors.

He guarded his energy.

He did the difficult things.

He said thank you.

He was constantly in a state of celebration.

He owned it.

He did not waste time judging others.

He expressed himself.

He was willing to look foolish.

He did not kick the donkey.  
He had a passionate commitment to the cause.  
He requested noble things.  
He saw love in control of the plan.  
He worked through his fears.  
He was keenly aware of his resources.  
He felt a sense of destiny.  
He prized the seed rather than the bouquet.  
He did not despise the little things.

***Strength of Action Section:***

He saw everything as being alive.  
He took action.  
He had a plan.  
He formed a team.  
He called the question.  
He saw things differently.  
He broke ranks.  
He came from left field.  
He branched out.  
He was bold.  
He boiled it down.  
He was visible.  
He was willing to do an end run.  
He took the long view.  
He knew that no one could ruin his plans.  
He took one step at a time.  
He took his staff in hand.  
He served only the best wine.  
He changed the unit of measurement.  
He troubled himself on behalf of others.  
He trained his replacements.  
He said "Why *Not* me?"  
He let it go.  
He rose above it all.  
He came to be a blessing.  
He was a turnaround specialist.  
He knew he was not alone.

***Strength of Relationships Section:***

He gave them a vision of something larger than themselves.  
He beheld them.  
He said "Yes."  
He was open to people and their ideas.  
He empowered women.  
He was transparent before them.  
He believed in them.  
He clearly defined their work-related benefits.  
He forgave them.  
He treated them as equals.  
He educated them.  
He managed from the inside out.  
He held them accountable.  
He spent lots of time with them.  
He touched the fragile things.  
He set an example for them.  
He prayed for them.  
He acknowledged them in public and in private.  
He looked out for the little guys.  
He enrolled them.  
He kept urging them on.  
He had compassion for the crowds.  
He served them.  
He loved them.  
He defended them.  
He gave them authority.  
He played with them.  
He harbored only goodwill.  
He gave them something tangible to remember him by.  
He wanted to take everyone to the top.  
He saw them as God's gifts to him.  
He loved them to the end.  
He saw them as his greatest accomplishment.  
He knew that nobody wins unless we all do.