

CTS
NIGHTS

SERVANT LEADERSHIP:
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT LEADERSHIP
Spring 2026





Welcome to
Servant Leadership!





Thank You CTS Nights Team and
Campus Hosts!

Sophia Vincent and Ashleigh Story

Springdale-Austin Nichols

Pinnacle Hills-Lee Larry and

Campbell Hess

Fayetteville-Tyler Magruder,

Jackson Terrell

AND





Tech and Comms TEAM Extraordinaire!



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NIGHTS

WE ARE HERE TO
SERVE WITH YOU!



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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT LEADERSHIP
Spring 2026





Let's Talk About the
Syllabus, and Books! 😊
Books have been ordered
and are on the way!





If you miss a night due to sickness or travel, reach out for a password to where the weekly videos are posted.





Teaching Team:
Next Two Weeks (Feb 4,11)
Dr. Jeff Crawford,
President of CTS





Taking up Your Towel and Navigating Your Leadership Journey



Your ***CALLING***

HOW has God uniquely created and called you?

Your ***CHARACTER***

WHO are you becoming?

Your ***COMPETENCIES***

WHAT do you need to be effective to use your gifts, abilities, experiences, and talents to influence others?

Your ***CONTEXT***

WHERE has God used you in the past?

WHERE has God uniquely positioned you in the present?

Your ***COMMITMENT***

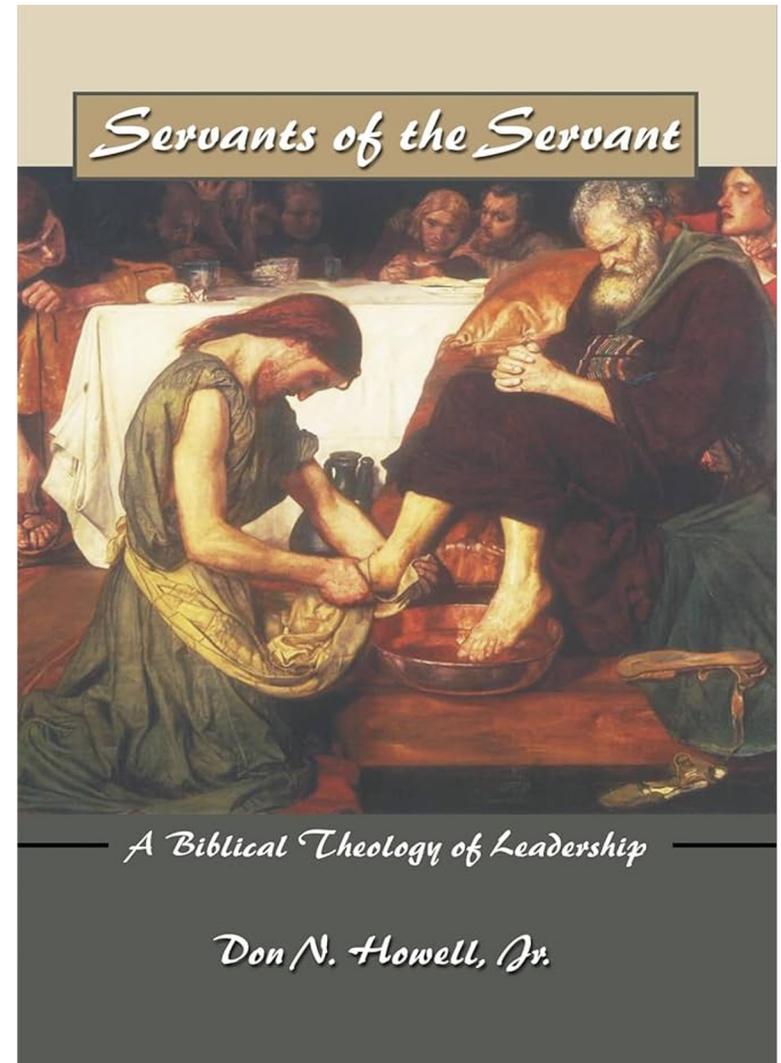
HOW do you sense God is leading you to take next steps in your leadership journey?

Are you willing to take the next step?

Biblical Leadership is taking the ***initiative*** to ***influence*** people to grow in holiness and to passionately promote the extension of God's kingdom in the world. . . .

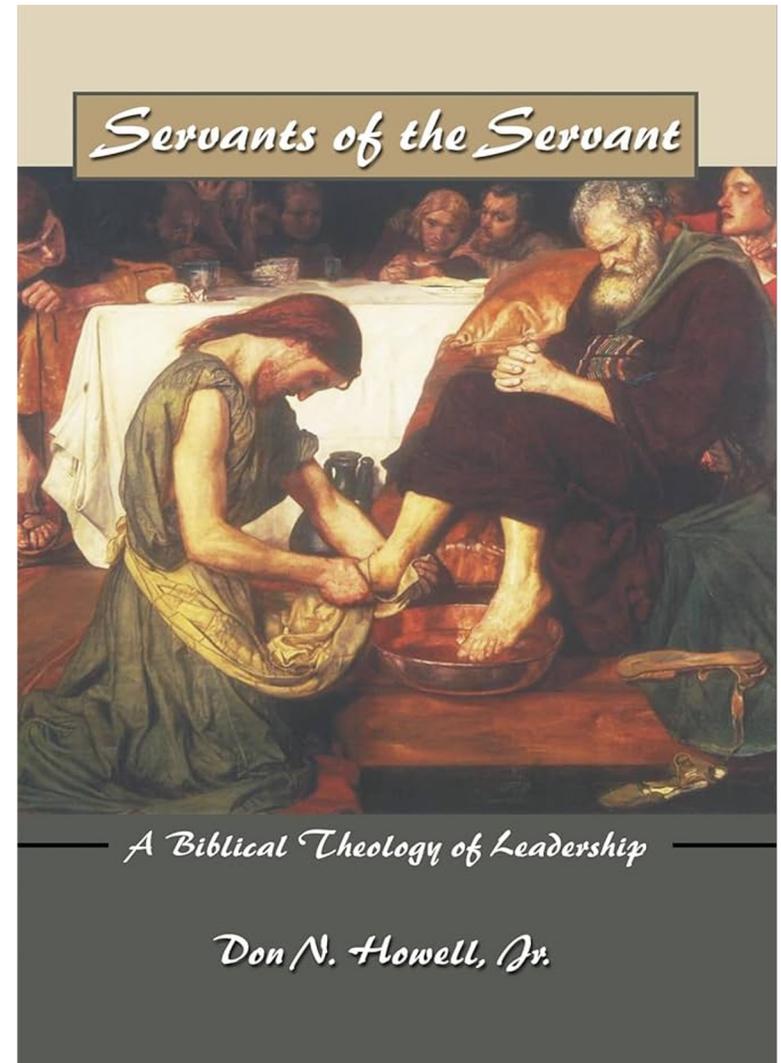
Those who stand out in Scripture as leaders are designated, first of all, “servants of the Lord.”

Don N. Howell, *Servants of the Servant*, 3



“The leader’s character,
motive, and agenda
determine if the exercising
of leadership is
constructive or unhealthy.”

Don N. Howell, *Servants of the Servant*, 3

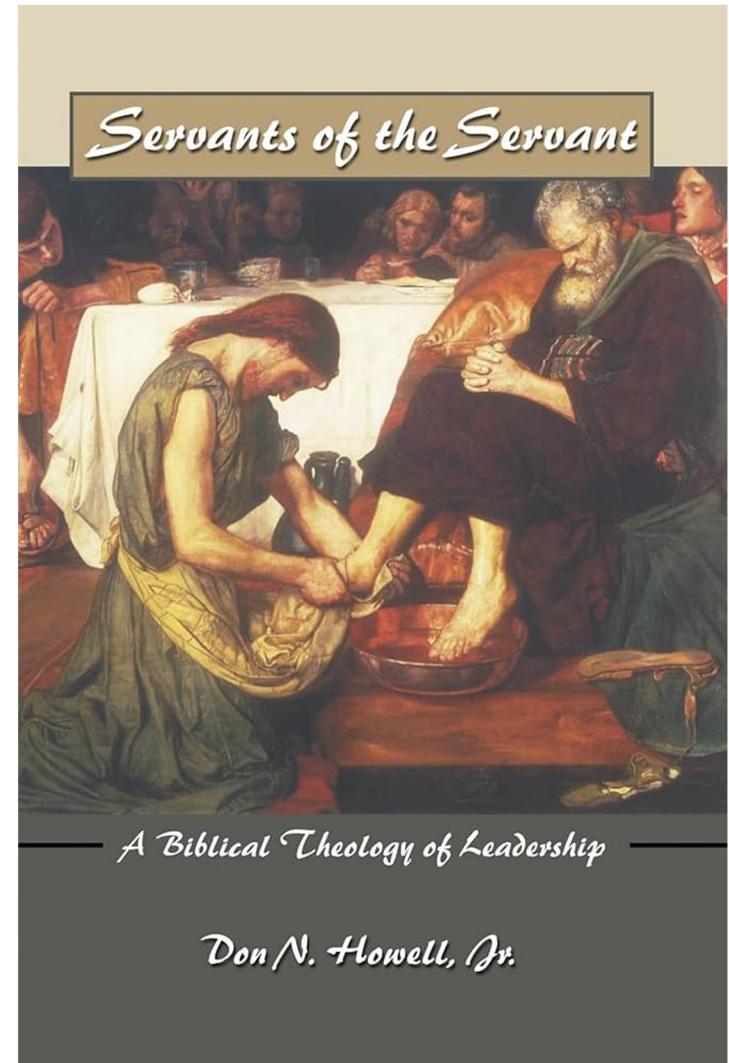


CTS
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SERVANT LEADERS ARE
NOT PERFECT, BUT THEY
DO LIVE WITH A
CONTINUED AND
CONSISTENT
COMMITMENT TO CARRY
OUT THE LORD'S
PURPOSES



“The Bible is a book that tells it like it is. The God of perfection who planned, supervises and will one day consummate the plan of redemption employs flawed human vessels to accomplish his purposes. The Biblical record applauds the successes of its great leaders without magnifying them, and censures their failures without excoriating them. Divine grace is at work and the human instruments are but servants whose vocation is to magnify a majestic Lord.”
Howell, p. 296



THE SERVANT LEADER'S COMPASS

The Servant Leader's Aspiration:
The Glory of God
(Philippians 2:5-11)

The Servant
Leader's
Motivation:
The Mission of God
(Matthew 28:18—20)



The Servant
Leader's
Vision:
The Revelation of God
(Proverbs 29:18)

The Servant Leader's Foundation:
The Word of God
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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Passion

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:7-8

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Passion

Leadership Begins With Lordship

Those who lead most effectively will be those who walk with Jesus most closely.

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Passion = Deep Conviction

When we are influenced by something/Someone greater than ourselves, we will influence others in the greatest of ways.

We will move people to God's agenda when we have been moved to God's agenda.

People are most willing to move when they see that we are moved by something greater.

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Foundation

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man [and woman] of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

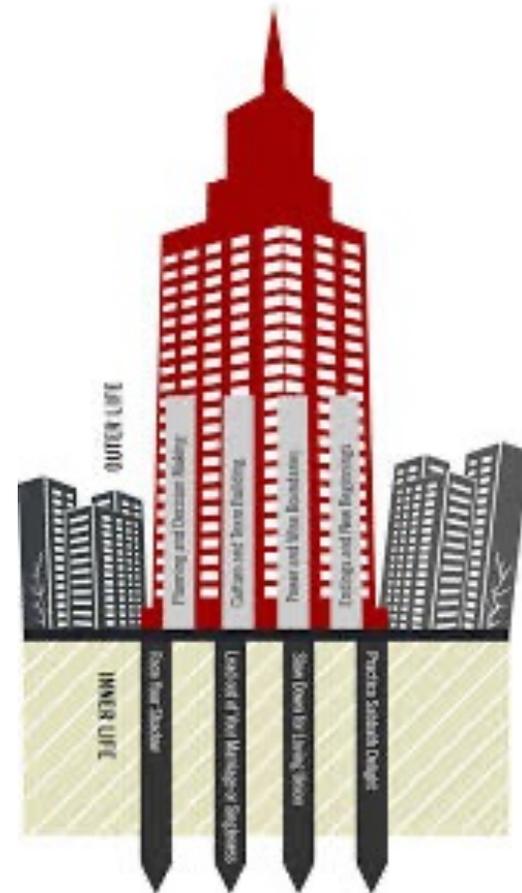
The Emotionally Healthy Leader



How transforming your inner life will
deeply **transform** your church, team, and the world



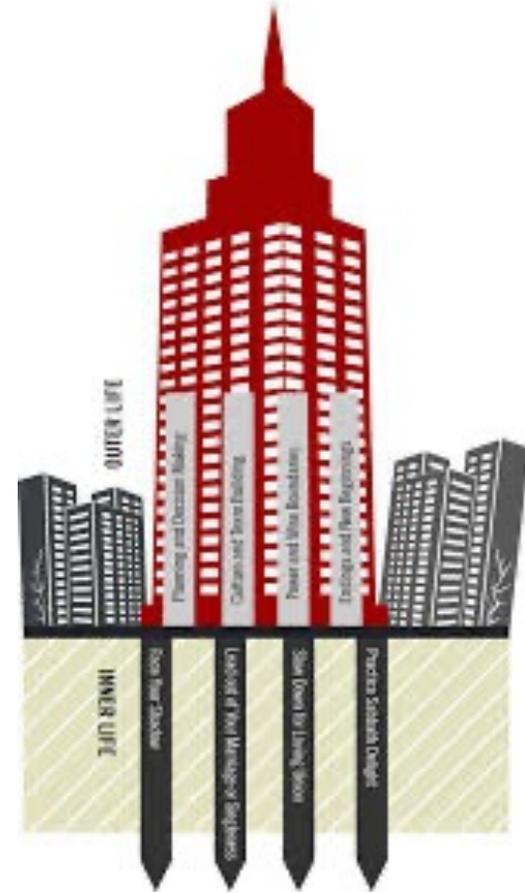
Peter Scazzero





“What you do matters,
but who you are
matters more.”

PETE SCAZZERO



THE SERVANT LEADER'S COMPASS

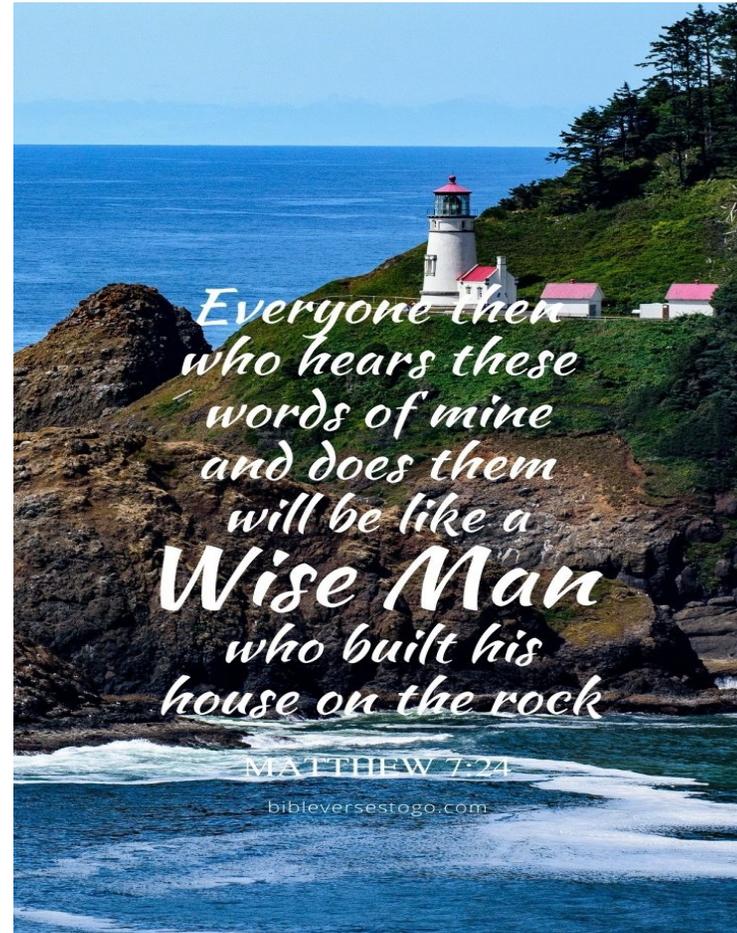
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Motivation

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

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Motivation

The Co-Mission is the continual motivation.

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Vision

⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Proverbs 29:18 (ESV)

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Vision

Vision guides and guards.



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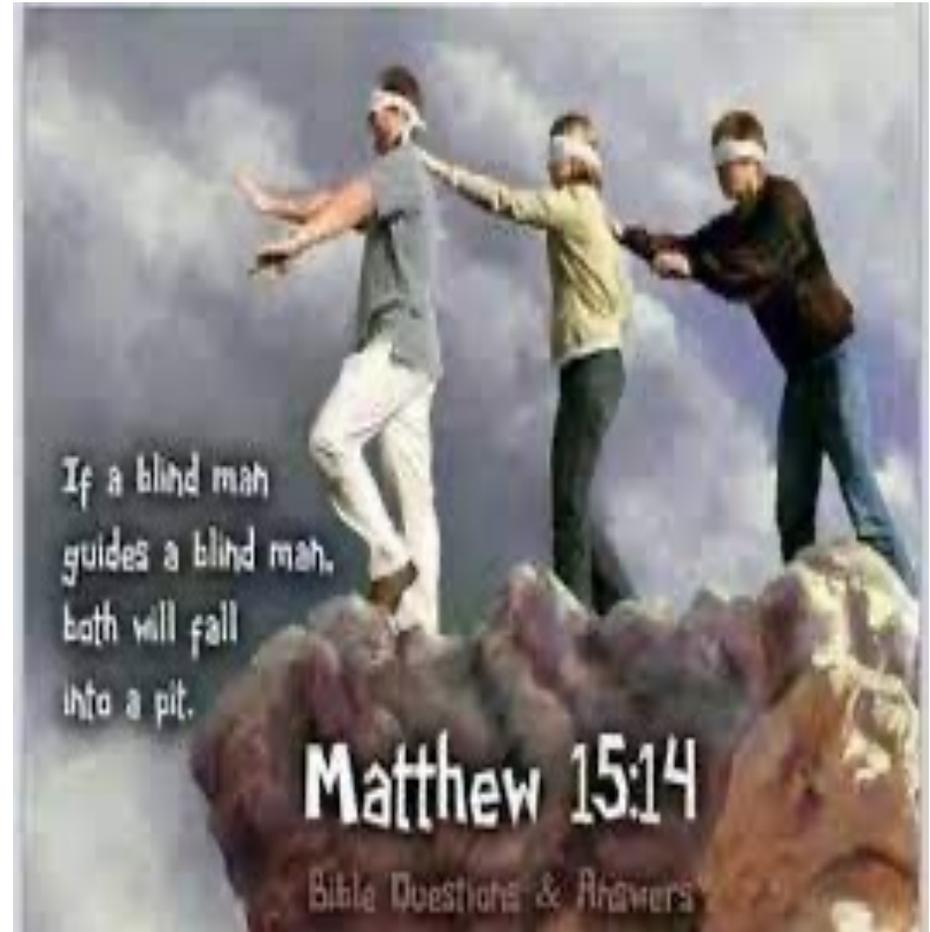
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Aspiration

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

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Aspiration

**“ASPIRE TO INSPIRE . . .
BEFORE YOU EXPIRE.”**

Eugene Bell Jr.



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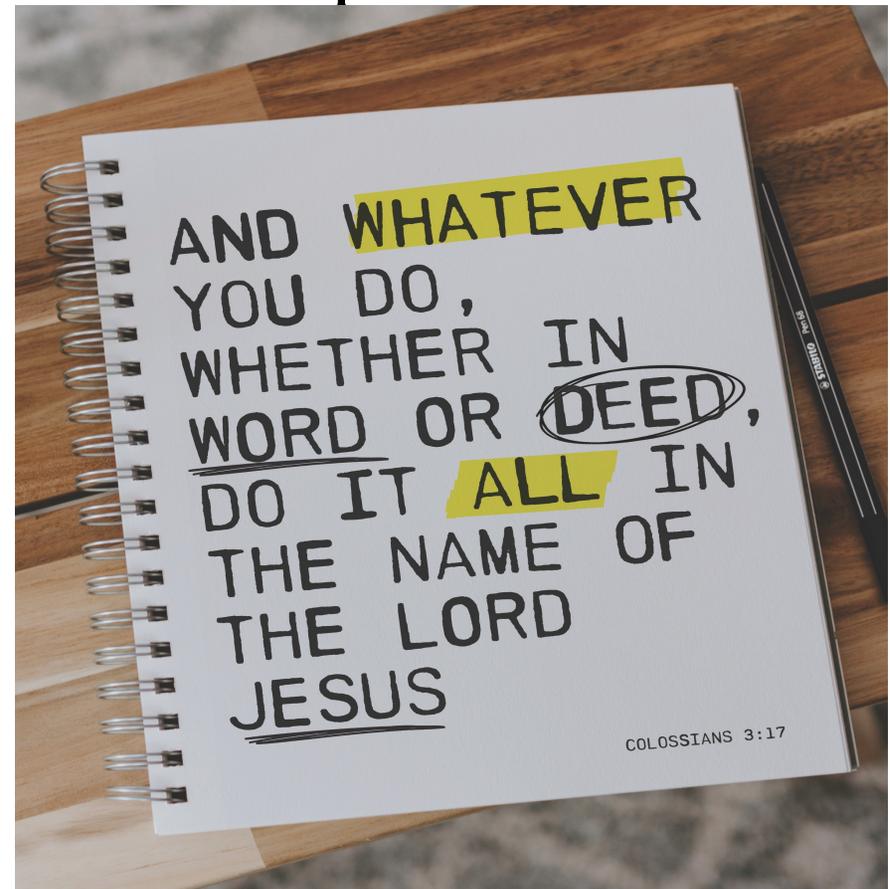


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Aspiration

bible quote

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Trajectories of *Servant Leaders*

Proven Character

Romans 5:1-11

“ . . . the refined product that emerges from a process of testing.” Howell, p. 296-97.

Doxological Motive

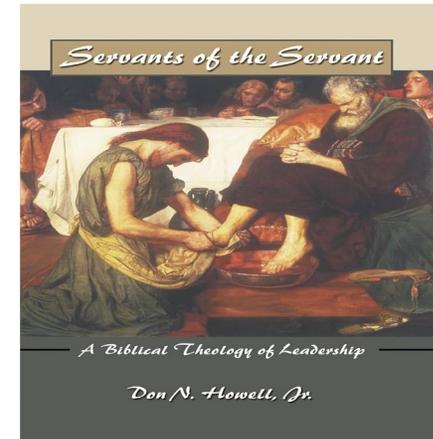
Philippians 2:11

“It is not enough to do the right thing or even have a stable and growing character. New covenant leaders must regularly assess why they are doing what they are doing.” Howell, p. 300.

Divine Agenda

Acts 20:24

Servant leaders are not visionaries who devise a brilliant plan, . . . Rather they are faithful stewards of the divine mandate—to fish and to feed, to evangelize and to teach, to pioneer and pastor.





THE SERVANT LEADER'S EXAMPLES: OT AND NT

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE
NEW TESTAMENT





SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT

Servant of Yahweh

Joshua 24:29; 2 Samuel 7:5





Who is the OT Personality
that you identify with most?





Next Week! Dr. Jeff Crawford
Servant Leadership Lessons
from Nehemiah





SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

doulos

One who belongs to another,
A voluntary, fully-devoted servant



It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant (*doulos*), and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Matthew 20:26-28



SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE
NEW TESTAMENT

diakonos

Literally “through the dust” or
“thoroughly in the dust”
“to kick up dust”, as one running an
errand. A. T. Robertson



The greatest among you shall be your servant (*diakonos*). Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 23:11-12



NT Profiles in Leadership

Chapter 17. Peter: A Broken Rock Becomes a Foundation Stone

1. The patience and faithfulness of Jesus toward his leader-in-training.

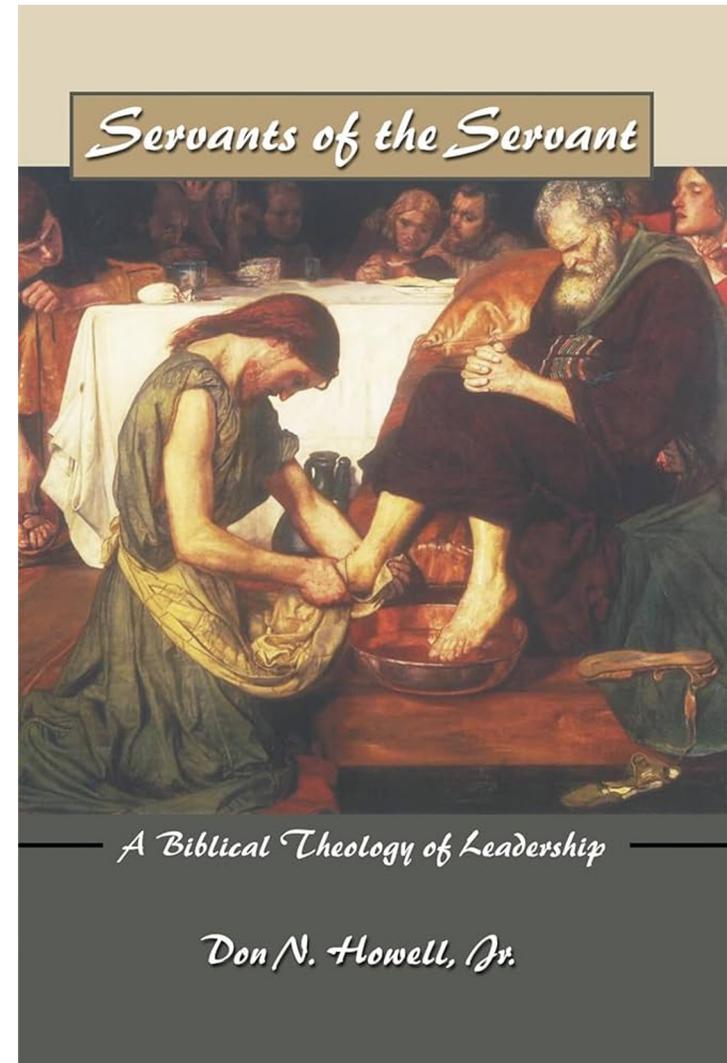
“Peter’s story should be a powerful encouragement to any and all of God’s servants who deeply recognize their own numerous liabilities, but aspire to impact others for the glory of God.”

2. Dual roles to fish and to shepherd

“Peter is the comprehensive leader with both evangelistic and pastoral roles. . . . All leaders, regardless of their primary calling and gifting, are commanded to dedicate their energies to fulfilling their Lord’s final testamentary charge.”

3. The centrality of the Word of God.

“Peter could have used his intimacy with the historical Jesus to nurture a cult-like following among the second generation of believers. However, he placed his entire ministry under the authority of God’s word . . . This is the commitment of any leader who desires a lasting legacy.”



NT Profiles in Leadership

Chapter 18. John the Apostle: The Taming of Ambition

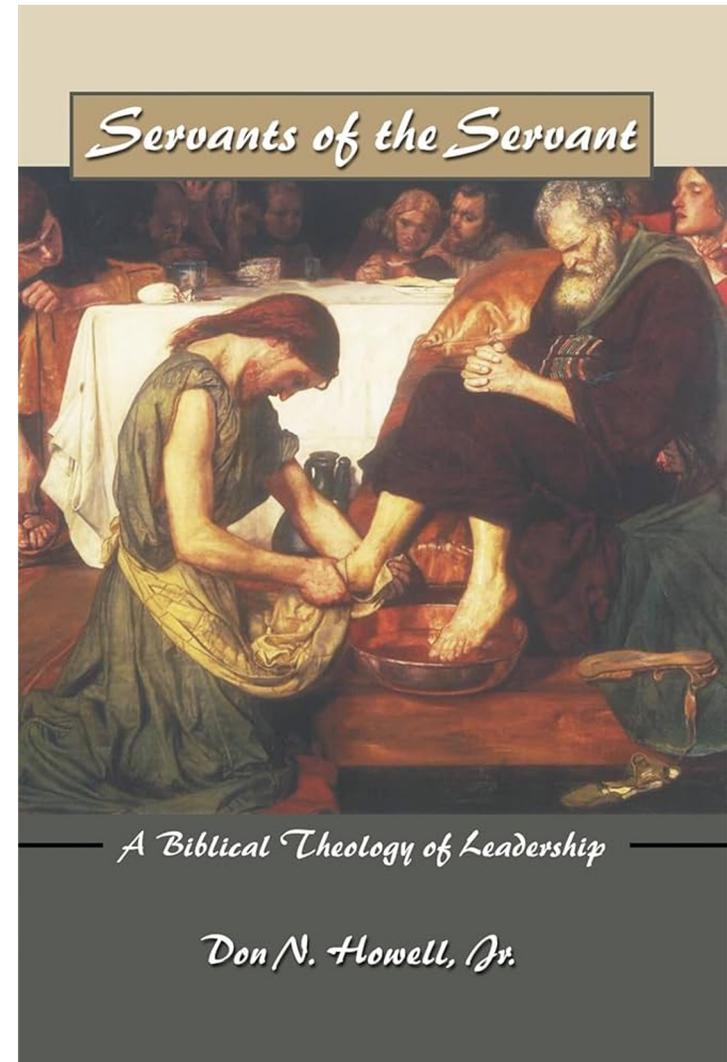
1. Transforming Power of the Cross

“John himself would be radically changed by what he witnessed . . . A shameful death of unimaginable cruelty, one that signified the curse of God upon a blasphemer, became for John the revelation of the glory of God.”

“John became a transformational leader because he was, first and foremost, a transformed leader.”

2. In the Leadership Training School of Jesus

“The hopes that were shattered at the cross were restored at the resurrection and empowered at Pentecost.”



NT Profiles in Leadership

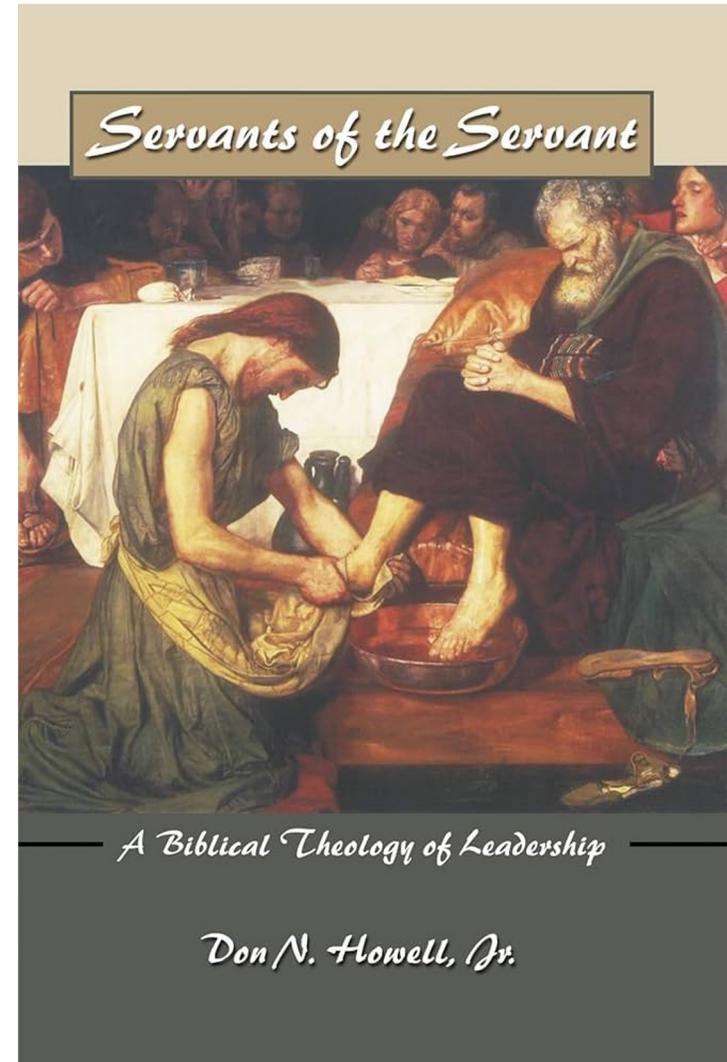
Chapter 19. Barnabas: Power of the Mentor

1. The Tribe of the Encouragers

”Encouragement was a habit for Baranabas, cultivated over the years in many situations with many people . . . It takes little foresight or creativity to carp at, criticize, and deflate the struggling hopes of brothers and sisters engaged in spiritual warfare. The encourager is one who nurtures hope by drawing on the resources of a Lord who transcends all human limitation. In that he or she imitates the Paraclete himself.

2. The Power of the Mentor

“Though Luke provides only five vignettes of Barnabas, his influence far outweighs his coverage. Fourteen of the twenty-seven books of the NT were written by men helped on their way by Barnabas. We see in the life of Barnabas the incredible power of the servant-leader who facilitates the success of others.”



NT Profiles in Leadership

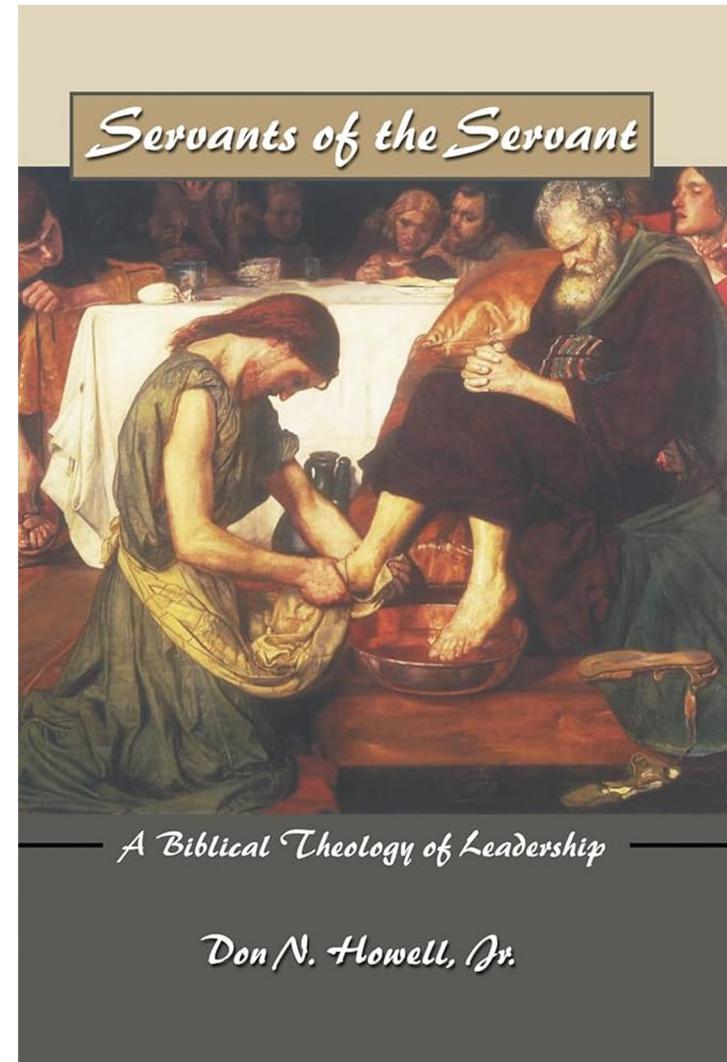
Chapter 20. Timothy: Extraordinary Usefulness of an Ordinary Vessel

1. Minister for All Seasons

“Timothy is the paradigmatic missionary who is called on to do a variety of tasks, some of which he feels well-qualified to fulfill and others that are clearly out of his comfort zone . . . Timothy was the flexible leader, willing to do what needed to be done whether it was his primary gifting or not.”

2. Ordinary Ability, Extraordinary Usefulness

“ . . . Timothy eases on to the scene. He follows in the background, appears where needed, and contributes, always positively contributes, to the success of the work. One needs only to read the array of NT texts where Timothy is commended to see how this ordinary man became extraordinarily useful. . . . No wonder Paul could say, “I have no one else like him” (Php 2:20a).”

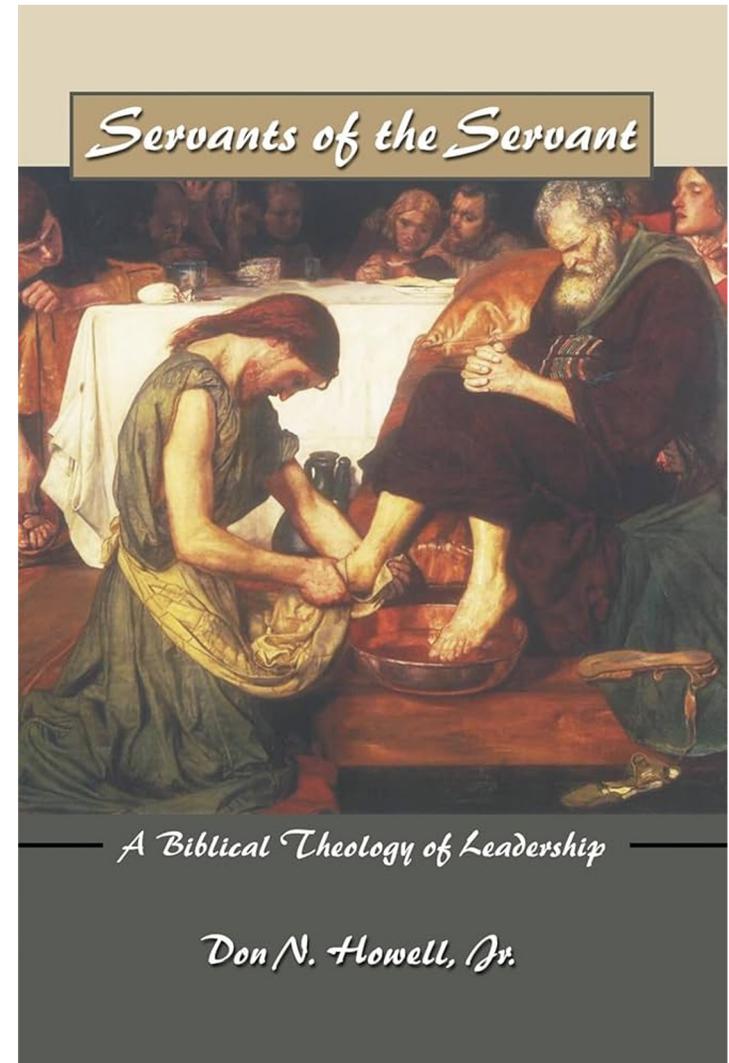


NT Profiles in Leadership

Chapter 21. Titus: Paul's Troubleshooter

“He was the member of the mission team that was assigned the most difficult and unpleasant tasks.

1. Resolute Defender of the Gospel
2. Courageous Envoy to a Troubled Church
3. Leader of a Delegation on a Sensitive Mission
4. Pastor to a Church in an Unpromising Setting





Who is the NT Personality
that you identify with most?



THE SERVANT LEADER'S UTLIMATE EXAMPLE

Over the course of the semester, we will study a number of passages, principles, and personalities from the Bible, but we will continually focus on the greatest and most effective servant leader—
Jesus Christ.



The Leadership Profile of Jesus

Kingdom Harvest Through Sacrifice

Chapter 14

1. Theology of the Kingdom

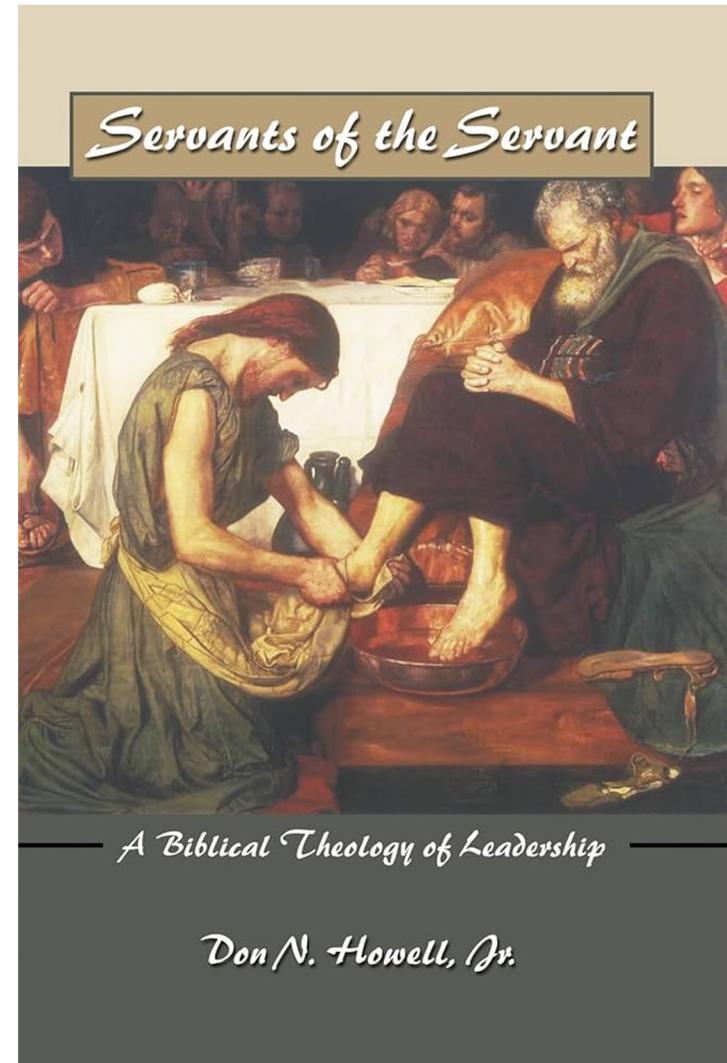
”Between the two advents the disciples will serve as the advance guard of the new messianic community comprised of all who submit to God’s dynamic rule with faith and repentance.”

2. Engagement-Withdrawal Pattern of Training

”The Jesus seminary combined active periods of evangelism with quiet periods of prayer to the Father. His students would learn to imitate him as he engaged in public ministry punctuated by regular periods of quiet withdrawal. Like their Lord they would be neither frenetic, unreflective activists nor distant, passive mystics.”

3. Clarity of the Mission

“Authentic kingdom leaders stay focused on the essentials, strive to maintain unity, and sound out a coherent message to a fractured world.”



Leadership Profile of Jesus

Kingdom Righteousness Through Freedom

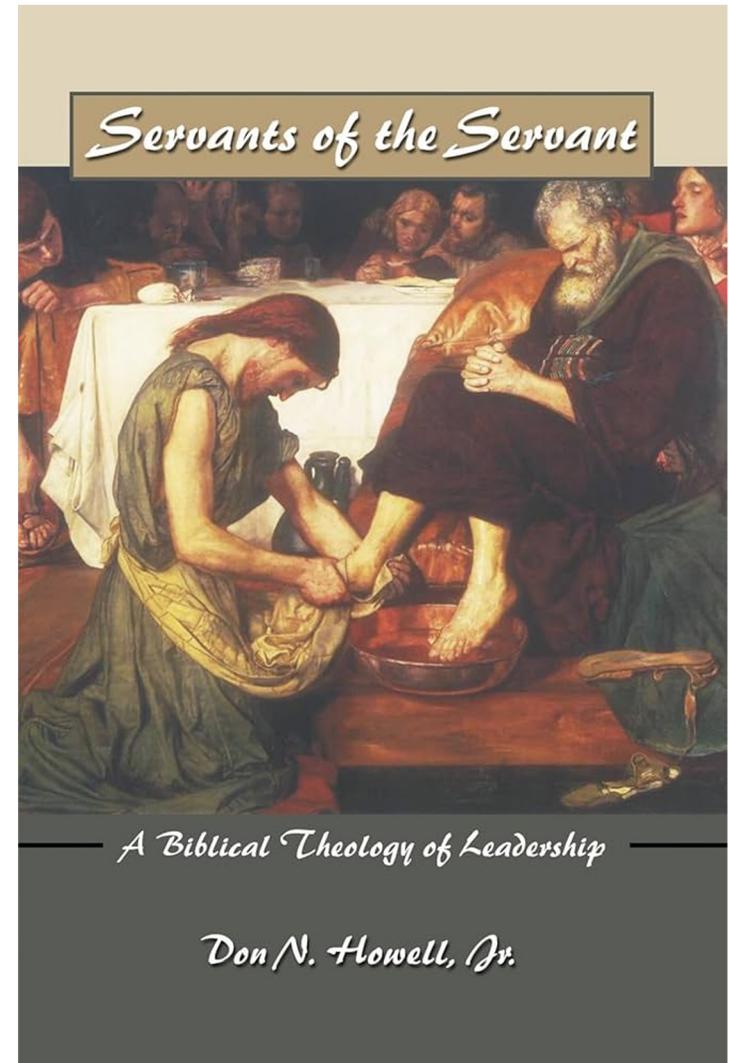
Chapter 15

1. The Truth That Sets One Free

”Jesus saw the binding traditions as an obstacle to true holiness because they obscured the teaching of Scripture and neglected the matters of the heart. The disciples must become leaders who continually unmask their souls before the invasive searchlight of Scripture and cultivate a renewed mind, a clear conscience, and a pure heart.”

2. New Covenant Promises and Provisions

”Kingdom leaders go forth to model heart-hands integrity searched by the Spirit, and to proclaim truth revealed by the Spirit to the consciences of people convicted by the Spirit. Dependence on the Word and the Spirit, rather than reliance on traditions and structures, characterizes all authentic kingdom ministry.”



Leadership Profile of Jesus *Kingdom Greatness Through Servanthood*

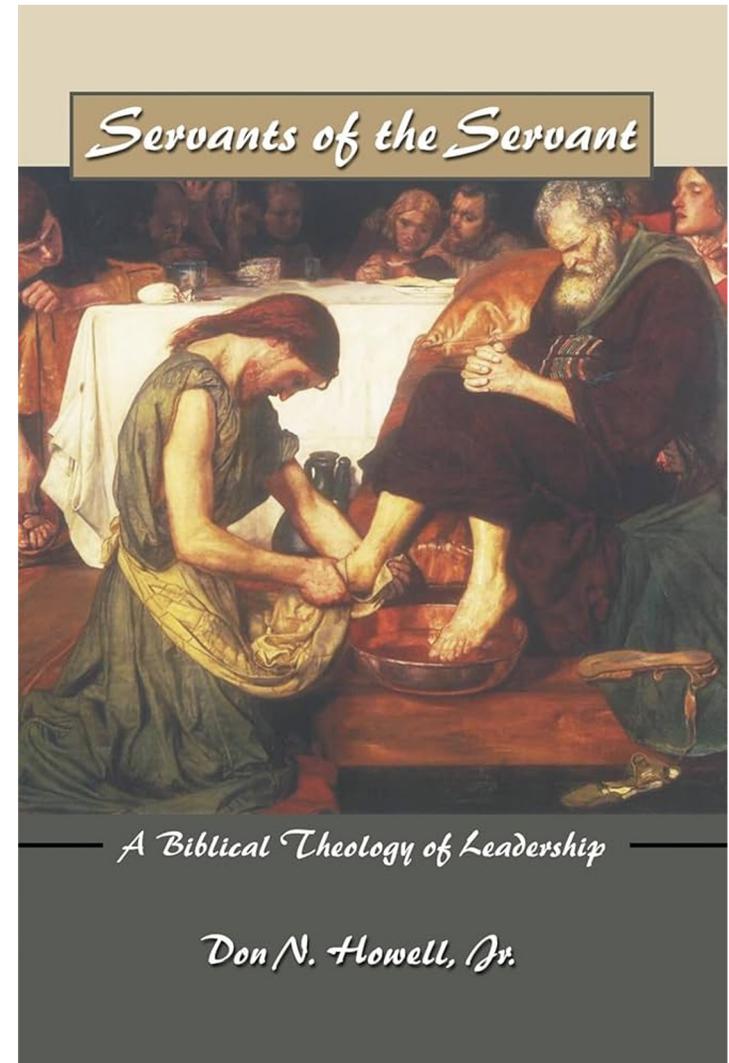
Chapter 16—Son of Man and Suffering Servant

1. Example of the Suffering Servant

”The exalted Son of man of Daniel’s vision was, first, the suffering Servant of Isaiah’s prophecy. Jesus fulfilled the role of the Servant in the greatest act of self-abnegation this world has even seen. . . . For unworthy sinners and, at best, unprofitable servants to adopt a sense of entitlement and a belief in their own importance reveals an abysmal failure to ponder the mysterious depths of the self-humbling of the man who is God.”

2. Radically Different Model of Leadership

”That the disciples repeatedly bickered over places of prominence in the coming kingdom proves they were imitating those models with which they were familiar. All aspiring kingdom leaders should pause to remember Jesus words when they encounter the latest proposal in leadership theory: “But not so with you.”



Questions:

Which qualities or characteristics from The Leadership Profile of Jesus do you believe are most evident in your life?

Which qualities or characteristics do you pray will be increasingly displayed in your life?

