

Leadership Sunday: Jesus is Looking for Followers

WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH  September 25, 2016

What Is Leadership?

- ▶ **Exercising power.** Leadership is a matter of pursuing one's own ends. Asserting power over others is an end in itself, and symbolizes one's position as a leader.
- ▶ **Gaining and exercising the privileges of high status.** Leadership is about getting to the top, and being recognized as having the highest status.
- ▶ **Being the boss.** Leadership is overseeing the work of the organization by telling everyone what to do when, and rewarding or punishing as appropriate.

What Is Leadership?

- ▶ **Task orientation.** Leadership is getting the job done – that's all that matters.
- ▶ **Taking care of people.** Leadership is looking out for those you lead, and making sure they get what they need.
- ▶ **Empowerment.** Leadership is helping those you lead gain power and become leaders.

What Is Leadership?

- ▶ **Providing moral leadership.** The leader, by force of character and her own high standards, creates expectations and pulls others up to her level.
- ▶ **Providing and working toward a vision.** Leadership is the ability to envision a goal, and to motivate others to work with you toward that goal.

[<http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/leadership/leadership-ideas/leadership-styles/main>]

What Jesus Is Looking For

- ▶ Jesus isn't looking for leaders—He's looking for followers
- ▶ “There may be more to being a Christian than followership. There certainly cannot be less.” [—Leonard Sweet]

Jesus Is Looking For Followers

▶ **Matthew 4:19**

“Follow Me,” He told them, “and I will make you fish for people!”

▶ **Matthew 8:22**

But Jesus told him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

▶ **Matthew 9:9**

He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, “Follow Me!” So he got up and followed Him.

Jesus Is Looking For Followers

- ▶ **Matthew 16:24**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”

- ▶ **Matthew 19:21**

“If you want to be perfect,” Jesus said to him, “go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.”

Jesus Is Looking For Followers

▶ **John 1:43**

The next day He decided to leave for Galilee. Jesus found Philip and told him, “Follow Me!”

▶ **John 10:27**

“My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

▶ **John 12:26a**

“Whoever serves me must follow me.”

Leadership Litmus Test

- ▶ Ideally the world will say of us what the Sanhedrin said of Peter and John: *“they took note that these men had been with Jesus”* [Acts 4:13b]
- ▶ Litmus test for leadership in the church: do we take note that our leaders have been with Jesus?
- ▶ The local church often fails here – we settle for someone who can do the job rather than insisting on someone who is, recognizably and demonstrably, a follower of Jesus

Our Vision and Mission

▶ **Vision**

Transforming our world with God's love and God's power.

▶ **Mission**

Raising up ordinary people to be extraordinary followers of Jesus by loving them, training them in the Word of God, and equipping them to do the ministry of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Word For Those Who Would Lead

- ▶ Leaders should not complain about the people, certainly never to others, but also not to God
- ▶ Disappointments in our work must not drive us against the people nor away from God
- ▶ This is our call for those we lead: pray for them, love them, believe best about them

A Word For Those Being Led

- ▶ The leaders you get are not always the leaders you want
- ▶ Scripture praises Moses
 - ▶ Numbers 12:7b-8a “... Of all my house, he is the one I trust. ⁸ I speak to him face to face, clearly, and not in riddles! He sees the Lord as he is.” [NIV]
 - ▶ Deuteronomy 34:10 “But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.” [NKJV]

Israel Is Not Especially Impressed With Moses

- ▶ Israel rejects Moses before he can start — Exodus 2:14
- ▶ Israel rejects Moses as he's starting — Exodus 5:21
- ▶ Israel rejects Moses after he starts — Numbers 12:1-6

Complaining Is A Bad Strategy

- ▶ **1 Samuel 24:6**

“The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord’s anointed.” [ESV]

- ▶ **Numbers 12:8b**

“Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” [NRSV]

- ▶ This doesn’t mean leaders are above criticism, aren’t accountable, or must be followed blindly

When We Are Complaining and Criticizing...

- ▶ It is the enemy's mark—it is not a characteristic of those who follow Jesus
- ▶ It says more about what we believe about God than what we believe about our leaders
- ▶ When the leaders you get are not the leaders you want, pray for them, love them, and believe best about them

WMC's Leadership Team

- ▶ **Elders:** Pat Green, Al Jensen
- ▶ **Deacons:** Susan Corsaro Johnson, Kim Engel Pearson, David Hammerslag, Vickie Liebsch
- ▶ **Ministry Leaders:** Sandra Anderson (First Impressions), Mike Boillot (Open Arms), Pat Green (Hospitality), Vicky Latham (Mercy Meals), Mike & Sally Latsko (Missions), Debra Price (Prayer), Jennifer Sellers (Children)

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