

MENS LIFE BLOOMINGTON

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Leadership | Mark 10:35

Overview: Unfortunately, the pursuit of leadership in our society is often to possess control, power, recognition, and personal benefit – most often this leadership pursuit is done out of self-glory and righteousness, self-protection, pride, and an unavoidable ego. Jesus did everything to demonstrate and educate that true leadership is not to be served but rather to serve. There's no greater leader in history and no greater example of one serving than Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

Why I Picked This Verse: 1) A consistent desire to be the best leader I can be for my family and in life

Video: Leadership Lesson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWgZaKUfNM>

Segment Questions: (References are on back)

- In what ways did the disciples demonstrate Jesus' leadership characteristics after his earthly ministry?

Read John 13:14

- What do you think the significance was of Jesus washing the disciple's feet at the table? Why do you think Jesus suggests that the disciples should wash one another's feet?
- What are some of the other examples where Jesus was serving others and how do you think it resonated with those around him?

Mark Moore comments and insights

- Harod and Pilot were oppressive leaders who used power for self-promotion and self-protection becoming slaves to their desires to be seen as rulers – why is this such a common trait amongst leaders in today's society?
- Jesus utilized 3 separate opportunities to educate the disciples on what it meant to truly be a good leader by serving others instead of desiring to be served - why do you think it was so hard for them to fully grasp what Jesus was trying to illustrate?
- Mark Moore says "if you want to be free from the clutches of being a slave to your desire to be seen as a leader, it's through service and suffering that we'll have our greatest leadership impact" – how does "suffering" fit into the picture of being a good leader? What does he mean by this? What were some of the ways Jesus went through a similar suffering in his leadership?

Read Ephesians 5:21

- How are we to interpret this passage with the intent to serve – specifically our spouse?

Action Questions:

- Do you recall a time (or share a recent example) where a leader of yours was serving you/others? How did it make you feel? What was the outcome?

Closing Personal Prayer:

Father, thank you for all the ways in which you've taught us about true leadership, both through demonstration and your word. Help us in our leadership journey to serve others by putting them first and to help us hold off on the temptations of self-glorification, personal pride, and self protection. Help us to serve others through your love. Amen.

Introduction

I've been blessed to be raised, mentored, coached, and taught by some of the greatest leaders I could imagine. In looking back, it's not hard to see the connection of those that I admired for their leadership in my life and the servant mentality they took on in their approach to helping me. My greatest strides in life have been at the hands of those that have invested their time, attention, and resources in me - those that have loved me and allowed me to love them.

Parents are often a great example of servant leaders because they'll oftentimes do anything they can to put their kids in the best position to succeed – in sports, in school, in business, and in life. My introduction to parenthood nearly 8 years ago was likely a turning point in my life as it related to a more selfless approach to life and leadership.

Learning what it means to be a true leader as Jesus' defines it is both hard to comprehend and hard to enact. Take the disciples for example, Jesus had to tell them 3 separate times about the true meaning of what it means to be a leader – even then they still struggled to fully comprehend what Jesus was saying. The disciples thought what so many people do, that leadership is pursued to gain power, fame, and fortune; it took Jesus multiple times to illustrate that true leadership is dying to yourself (carrying your cross) and serving others through acts of service and love. Never was this truer and more evident than Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

There's not a day that goes by where I question how I'm leading – both at home and in business. There are days where I feel like I'm on fire and blazing a path; there are days where I feel I fall incredibly short and lose the confidence from my team. I'm sure I'm a harsh critic of myself but it wasn't until diving into this passage that I questioned what I could be doing to be a servant-focused leader and focusing less on how I'm being served. I'm realizing that serving can't be secondary if you're desiring to be a strong leader.

Luke 12:37 | Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

Luke 12:48 | But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

John 13:14 | If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Ephesians 5:21 | Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Matthew 20:26–28 | Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first 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.”