

DAY 14

Diotrophes or Demetrius?

Diotrephes, who loves to have first place among them, does not receive our authority... Everyone speaks well of Demetrius — even the truth itself. And we also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

3 John, verses 9 and 12

Leadership Affirmation

I will live this day so that truth itself will speak well of my thoughts, my actions, and my leadership of others.

If we want to lead like Jesus, if we want to influence and impact those around us, we must embody integrity, humility, love, perseverance, and courage. Sadly, not all leaders embody these attributes. In the shortest letter in the Bible (219 words in the original language^{xiii}), we find two men who stand as polar opposites with respect to what it means to lead like Jesus.

The aged John gave a strong word of caution about Diotrophes, a man who rejected the authority of the Apostles and had an insatiable desire to hold a position of prominence in the church.

Just three verses later, John gave an equally strong word of affirmation about Demetrius: *Everyone speaks well of Demetrius—even the truth itself*. Then, as icing on the cake of honor, John wrote, *And we also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true*. Oh, that those we lead would say this of us!

One of the most influential people in my life is a man named Cliff. He's a legendary high school football coach with state championships in his home county. He is in the football Hall of Fame at the university where he played. He's a great leader because of his character. Cliff has run his race well. He has integrity to the max.

I was a young pastor when I was called to Cliff's church. I had the *position* of leader, but Cliff was *the* leader. He led me. He invested in me. He helped me grow. Because of Cliff's leadership in my life, everything I do, every success that I enjoy, is due, in part, to him. That's the mark of a great leader.

You have people like that in your life. And God has called you to be that person in other people's lives! That's the kind of leader God has designed you to be.

Prayer for Protection

O Father, please deliver me from my natural tendency to crave prominence and preeminence.