

DAY 21

A Life-Defining Moment

But it is not so among you. On the contrary ...

Mark 10:43

Leadership Affirmation

I gladly accept the role of servant-hearted leadership, viewing no task as “beneath me.”

Jesus turned the disciples’ world upside down in so many ways. He taught that to be forgiven, one must forgive. To receive, one must give. To be first, one must be last. To live, one must die. To be served, one must serve. His teaching was 100 percent contrary to the way things work in the fallen world. If we are to lead like Jesus, we must get rid of some notions about leadership that are not true.

Leadership is not position.^{xix} Leadership really has nothing to do with the position you occupy or a position someone occupies over you. It is based fully on the trust you inspire through the service you render.

Leadership is not personality. We tend to think that you have to have a charismatic personality to be a great leader. Abraham Lincoln, widely regarded as one of the greatest presidents in the history of our nation, was an introvert, viewed by his own party as lacking sufficient intellect to run the nation. He is one of thousands of historical examples showing there is no correlation between personality type and leadership effectiveness.

Leadership is not popularity. The idea of leadership as a popularity contest is instilled in us as children. The popular kids are seen as leaders, so we wrongly conclude the most popular people are the best leaders.

Leadership is not power. So many who want to be leaders really crave power to do what they want to do and to control other people. Jesus used two strong words to describe what the world views as leadership: *katakyrieuo* (lord it down over) and *katexousiazō* (authoritarian-ize), both prefixed with *kata*, an intensifier.^{xx} He then declared, *it is not so among you!* True leadership is not about advancing yourself; it is serving others.

Leadership is not private or personal. Effective Christian leader is not about me and my personal success. It’s about you and how I can help you become what God called you to be. Within a matter of weeks, this mind-blowing, life-defining moment transformed this motley band into world-changers for God’s glory!

Prayer for Protection

Precious Spirit, I repudiate the lust for control that characterizes what too many view as leadership.