

Mark 10:35-45 / Philippians 2:5-11 Jesus Teaches on Leadership - Red Letters Series -

Have you ever thought about the fact that you are a leader?

A) 95% of us in this room are leading something or leading someone.

B) Husbands – leading your family

1) Wife leading kids

C) Some of you are leaders in your place of employment

1) Lead a team, a crew a department

D) Some of you are leaders in our church

1) You lead a home group, men's or women's group

2) You lead a team

3) You lead a children's ministry class

All of us are leading something

A) So here is my question – is anyone following?

B) Often when people are not following the way that we like – we want to blame it on them?

C) In reality the problem might be with us and the way that we are leading.

Today in our Red Letters series we are going to consider what Jesus had to say about leadership in His kingdom

A) Noted his Kingdom was different from the Kingdoms of this world – **Upside down Kingdom**

B) And there is probably no greater area where the differences are seen than in this area of leadership

C) Look at v.35 gives us the setting of this teaching

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

39 They said to Him, "We are able."

So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; 40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."

41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

The Setting here is James and John vie for power – Sit on the right and left hand. Wow!!!! Talk ...Ambitious

A) V.41 The rest of the disciples didn't like that James and John approached Jesus in that way.

B) My opinion – They were probably thinking – I wish I would have thought to ask that

C) Now I don't have the time to go into the nuances of their question and Jesus response

D) I want to focus our time today on the lesson he gives on leadership following this request

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

V. 42 But Jesus called them to Himself

A) This is always the Key – Mark tells us that in the start of his ministry Jesus called them to himself

B) Here we see him doing it again – He did this throughout his ministry.

1) He never stops – because we never outgrow our need for Jesus

C) Jesus begins by addressing the top down style of leadership that was prevalent in their day/our day, V.42 "You know that those who are considered

rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

This is how it works in the world – Top down leadership

A) There are the people in Charge and there are the people who report to the pp in Charge. –

B) There are the leaders and then there are the workers.

C) The People in charge tell the people under them what to do. “They lord it over them”

1) Jesus says -you know that is how things work in the world

That is Top down leadership

A) That is how it worked in that culture – and that is how it works in MOST PLACES day!

B) There are leaders and there are servants

1) There are bosses and there are workers

C) That is how Top down leadership works – you are going to know who is in Charge.

1) Sign on the door – picture in the lobby – reserved parking place for the CEO

43 Yet it shall not be so among you;

A) These guys are the future leaders of the church

B) This thing is going to blow up in the book of Acts ch.2 – 3,000 saved one say 2,000 another –

C) In a matter of a few short weeks the early church goes from 120 pp meeting in upper room

1) To over 5,000 people

D) These Disciples will be leading all of that

1) But Jesus is introducing a whole different paradigm in the early church as it related to leadership

He continues V.43 but whoever desires to become great among you (that is such an evil desire-)

A) Note: Jesus doesn't say that – He doesn't chastise them for wanting to be great – Ambition

B) But He is going to give them a new definition of what greatness is supposed to look like –

1) Ready for this:)

whoever desires to become great among you shall be

your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

D) Jesus is describing a whole different type of leadership – opposite of Top down leadership

1) Jesus said: We are not going to do it like the world

E) His MODEL of leadership is going to look RADICALLY different

NOTE: Jesus is not against leadership - Leadership is essential- GOD ALWAYS HAS LEADERS

A) Leadership is necessary – there has to be leaders

B) Some people try to advocate/no leaders – ALL ONE

C) When that is the model – things often don't get done – lots of IDEAS but no follow through

1) Or things are not done efficiently – No leader

D) Or you get a bunch of people all running around doing their own thing w/ a hope it all comes together

If you have ever been a part of a team – it doesn't take long to realize – we need a leader.

A) IN fact – Paul in Romans Ch. 12 Paul list leadership as a gift. {One of the gifts

B) But JESUS describes a different kind of leadership- than top down leadership

C) And What Jesus describes here can be applied in a Home- a Church – Your business – friendships

1) If you Get this: You will be someone others love to work for. – Others love to work with

D) Your company will have a low turnover rate.-

1) You might not even pay the most but you will be the best company pp have ever worked for.

E) You get this in friendships – You will Thrive

1) You will be someone that others love to have around – love to be friends with.

Jesus says:

You want to be great? – You want to be first?

A) BE a servant -be the slave of all.

B) Now I will be honest there was a time when I read this and really struggled with the meaning

1) Especially as one in leadership

C) Is Jesus saying I need to take off my leadership hat and pick up the broom and be the Janitor?

D) Is he saying I just need to spend all day picking up after people?

E) I thought – if I did that it would seem like I really would not be fulfilling my calling as pastor at CV?

To be clear - I don't think Jesus is saying take off your leadership hat and become the Janitor

A) Having said that – I think it is important to note that a leader **should be willing** to do anything

B) NO job **below** your pay grade – Jesus' example

C) John 13 - Jesus took the role of the lowest servant – washed feet

Note: He did that ONE TIME – example –

A) You should do to one another what I have done to you. Modeling being willing to serve each other

B) Let's consider this word Servant in V.43

C) The word translated “servant” is *diakonos* (the word sometimes used to refer to a **table waiter**).

Marks of a good waiter / waitress?

A) They are constantly looking to serve the people who they are taking care of.

B) They are fixated on making sure the people under their care are doing well – they have what they need

1) Their eyes are always looking trying to anticipate what the people would need next – ICE TEA

C) To have a heart of a servant is to always look for ways to serve people

1) without them even asking for YOUR help.

D) A SERVANT PUTS THE NEEDS OF OTHERS – above their own comfort or needs.

1) You Use your position for the benefit of others.

Note Jesus uses himself as the example ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

So what does Servant leadership look like?

A) What does it look like in a Family – a Church – a Business – a Friendship? - Phil 2

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

First Paul tells us that Jesus lowered himself

A) He made himself of no reputation –

B) Being in the form of God – Exact representation of God – Equal with the Father in every way.

C) But He did not consider it robbery to be equal with God –

1) He didn't think of His equality with God as something he had to cling to.

D) When the plan of Salvation was discussed – Jesus wasn't protesting -I can't give up my throne

1) Even for a minute.

E) I am not willing to leave heaven.

No Jesus realized that he was in a unique position to do something for us that we could not do for ourselves

A) See the **Bible pictures mankind – all of us – as being in Bondage to sin / Satan**

B) Because - We all have sinned – missed the mark – fallen short of the glory of God

C) **Sin left us in bondage: We are not sinners because we sin – we sin because we are sinners**

1) Engrained in us. - Pride – addictions – anger –

Jealousies – WHO WE ARE.

D) Fallen people – broken people – flawed Sinners

And The Bible says that in that condition – we were doomed- our destiny – spend eternity in hell.

A) Plight of every man and every woman – because we have all sinned.

B) So picture yourself – dungeon – You need a savior

1) The price of the Ransom is the blood of a perfect person.

C) Someone who has never sinned – someone who was able to live a perfect life.

1) year and year – decade after decade – NONE

Until Jesus humbled Himself – He steps off His throne – agrees to leave Heaven-

A) The place where He is worshipped – honored –

B) He lowers himself – and agrees to come to earth as a baby..... man

1) Teach us about the Love of God – the heart of God

C) He lives a perfect life – not to throw it in our face and say – SEE IT CAN BE DONE.

D) The whole thing is a rescue mission – The whole thing is about paying a ransom

1) He allows himself to be arrested – beaten – crucified – PAY THE PRICE – FOR US!

E) Gave himself a Ransom for Many – HE WAS the only one who could do that.

1) Purpose of his death was for the advancement of others

Jesus took everything that He had – everything that He was – God in human flesh / Perfect...

A) He used all of that – for the sake of others.

B) He leveraged all that He was and all that He had for the benefit of others.

C) That is what a servant leader does.

1) You use your position – your assets, your resources your influence to benefit others

D) You use your time, your resources, your talents, your position –

1) to help those you are working with – accomplish their goals.

Paul the apostle grew up trained to be a Pharisee – knew the top down model

A) He was being groomed to be the big honcho – the one everyone else listen to and cater too

B) Hated Christians – tried to destroy the early church – Face to face encounter with a Resurrection Jesus

1) Changed everything. Quit Pharisee – followed Jesus

C) Paul would refer to himself as a Doulos – a willing slave – 7 yrs – willing slave of Jesus

D) He would refer to himself as a minister = under rower – galley ship

1) Job of the get those on the top to their destination

E) That is the servant leader – he is doing what he can to get other to their destination.

Servant Leaders do what they can to empower others to become everything that God intended them to be.

A) Servant leaders do what they can to help others accomplish their dreams –

B) Think for a minute to what this might look like in your sphere of influence

1) House- Wife kids – Roommates – How can you be used to help them get to where they want to go –

C) How can you help them accomplish what they need to accomplish?

D) Examples: My kids are younger – Art project – they need a good drawing –

1) I can't draw a lick – stick figures look bad.

E) I could say: Sorry can't help – but I have influence – I know some artist- I can call.

1) I have means – I can kick in a few bucks

Denise: Women's ministry event – Special music

A) Not in the budget – they don't want to raise the price – can you help?

B) Well I have some influence on how money is spent

1) I helped work on the Budget – **I know where we might be able to shift funds from one department...**

C) I am using my position my resources – to help them accomplish their desire.

D) Someone is moving – Well I don't have the back anymore – to be hauling around couches

1) But you know what I have a truck – you can use it I know some young guys who are strong ask them...

Here is my point: Being a servant leader is more than just being willing to do the worst Job.

A) Sure you are willing and able to mop the floor – pick up after others –

B) But if that is all you did – you would not be fulfilling your role

C) You have talent – ability – influence – means – that could be better served in many of other ways

D) Being a servant leader is using all that you have to enhance – those around you in their calling

Here is what is amazing about this: As You watch others fulfill their calling –

A) You realize – you played a role in that – it is really rewarding

B) But if people are constantly just doing things for you – it is still a bit frustrating –

1) Because there is always more to be done

C) Or it is frustrating because they didn't do it the way that you hoped.

D) How do I practically stop and shift to adopt this model of leadership that Jesus exemplified?

Being a servant leader is being willing to ask a really simple question: How can I help?

A) There in lies the rub – right – I am kind of comfortable in my present situation –

B) I have worked hard to get to this place where everyone is focused on helping me

C) That is top down leadership – you work hard enough – success is everyone is doing stuff for you.

BUT Jesus model is different – it is seeing the need and asking the question – How can I help?

A) **Husbands** – Instead of ignoring a problem at home coming to your wife – How can I help.

B) **Wives:** Instead of complaining about how things are not going the way you want at home

1) Or the fact that your husband is under a lot of pressure – works too much – How can I help/

C) **Parents coming to your kids- Pressure school – whatever – How can I help?**

D) **Friends –struggling – How can I help?**

Pastor friend Large church – heard about a Pastor in his town – smaller church

A) This pastor every year took a trip to Hungary to do missions work

B) One year – he couldn't afford to go – so he was going to skip the trip.

C) My **friend who pastors a larger church** – heard about it Had his church write a check send it to the guy

1) note that said: For your Hungary trip

D) The Pastor of the smaller church – received it didn't understand – why would they do that – called

E) Answer: Why not – I can't go to Hungary – You are me – We are ONE –

1) I CAN'T GO – but I can help you go!!!!

Listen: When you see a need in the church or a need around you – instead of saying – somebody needs to take care of that

A) Or complaining – They should be more on the ball here.

B) ASKING the LORD– How can I help!!!

1) I DARE YOU TO DO THAT!

C) He might say: Volunteer in this way – you are good at that.

1) He might say –Write a check – you have means

D) Jesus said: **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

1) **We don't believe that** – we live in a culture that is all about consumption –

E) **Most of us have consumed way more than we could ever imagine – still want more**

1) Try Jesus way: Give more than consume – AND watch what happens

Core Value: We have been blessed to be a blessing

Imagine for a moment Church what the culture here at CV would be like if we did this?

A) If all of us – looked for ways to model servanthood

B) If all of us looked for ways to leverage what we have who we are – to bless others

C) If all of us – started asking that simple question – How can I help?

D) **I think it would be amazing** – Jesus would blow our minds – what we were able to accomplish

1) The People that we could bless.

Maybe you are here today and you are not a Follower of Jesus

A) On the one hand – this sounds crazy to you – that would never work

B) But on the other hand – there is a part of you that would **love to be a community like that.**

1) People who approached life that way.

C) Well - That is exactly what Jesus wants His Kingdom to look – like – exactly what He modeled

D) Exactly why He came – to take people who were living for themselves – empty – bondage

1) Redeem them – to do something new

He came to give his life a ransom –for many!

A) Many is the key word - His death paid the price for all to be Ransomed – set free.

B) But it is Many – because you have to decide – do I want to be set free!

C) Your choice: **Not force you** – but He invites you today to respond to his invitation.

D) He loved you enough to leave heaven – and leverage everything He had to purchase your freedom

E) Question is do you want to be set free!