

# So you want to be a leader

Being a leader, a co-laborer with God and with others in the body of Christ in order to see souls saved and set free, to see the kingdom come, to work in the realm of the supernatural, to know the satisfaction of spending your life for an eternal purpose – to have something to lay at the feet of Jesus when we finally see Him – this has to be the ultimate pleasure and privilege. This is the good life. But everything of value also requires great sacrifice. Leadership requires counting the cost. There are some things you are going to have to be okay with. Here are a few of them.

## 1) The standards are different for me

*For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward... Titus 1:7*

Paul's goal was to be without blame before God and man. Incredibly, he said things like "Follow me as I follow Christ" and "Everything you have heard and seen in me, do." Imagine living to that kind of standard consistently.

As a leader there are some things that I cannot do that others may be able to do. This is because I represent Christ. I must realize that choosing to do one thing is simultaneously a choice not to do other things. When I choose to be a leader I choose to limit myself in a sense. When I step into leadership, the warfare is greater, the stakes are higher, I have to be more vigilant for myself, my family, my church, my ministry. As a leader the first person I must lead is myself. One of the fruits that the indwelling Spirit of God bears in me is the fruit of self-control. I must guard myself from evil and develop the spiritual disciplines of studying the Word of God, prayer, meditation, fasting, solitude and service. I cannot expect others to follow me if I am not a man under control. If I do not think this is fair, then maybe leadership is not for me.

*Better a patient man than a warrior,  
a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.*

Prov 16:32

## 2) I must give more than I receive

*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. 2 Cor 12:15*

I do not have the right to expect others to give in return or even say thank you when I lay my life down for them. In fact, I *can* expect that I will be taken for granted, forgotten about, even betrayed. This takes us back to the motivation for our service to the Lord. Like Jesus, I must be willing to wash the feet of the one who is about to betray me. And I must be willing to bear this load consistently, even daily. Paul wrote of the most difficult things he had to bear in his Apostolic ministry: "that which comes upon me daily, the care for all the churches."

**3) I am not like everyone else (I must embrace my weakness)**

*So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

Romans 12:5-8

We all have differing gifts. I have to be alright with being who I am. I need to release myself to be what God made me to be and release myself from being other things. I cannot expect to be like those I look up to or aspire to be. I have to know myself, be comfortable with how God has made me. And I need to reconcile myself to the fact that it is okay to not be perfect - nobody is. I must learn to minister in my strengths. I am free and less stressed when I minister within my sphere of grace (2 Cor 10:13-15).

**4) Everyone else is not like me (I must release people to be who they are)**

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

Ephesians 4:2

Since we have differing gifts I have to give grace to others who see things or do things differently than I do. They may not be wrong, just different. I need to learn to appreciate the diversity of body of Christ. (Christ was all these gifts and He dispersed himself to the members of His body so that *the body is the fullness of Him who fills all things everywhere!*)

Take a gifts inventory/spiritual gifts class. Understand how people think and purpose. Understand, tolerate, take advantage of the many gifts of the spirit in the people around you (I personally believe the problem between Paul and Barnabas may have been along these lines).

**5) Being under authority**

*But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

*"For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.*

Matt 8:7-11

There are two kinds of submission mentioned in Scripture:

**Hupakuo** - submission out of duty (because I have to)

**Hupatasso** - submission out of devotion (because of relationship, I want to)

The greatest authority comes to those under authority. I will get respect/ submission from my subordinates in proportion to the submission that I give those over me. King David would not touch God's anointed. This does not mean that you cannot make a godly appeal or communicate fully and frankly about issues. You have a responsibility to do this.

Count on it, we all *will* be faced with a situation where we must submit to our authority (Submission implies disagreement, or else it is not submission, it is agreement). We must learn to respect and submit (this is assuming that there is not something immoral being done). This will be a trial of our faith in God and loyalty to our friends/superiors. As we mature, we learn to communicate, appeal, pray, trust God to lead, be faithful and loyal.

## 6) The threshing floor

*The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,  
but the LORD tests the heart.*

Prov 17:3

The process of brokenness – threshing floor, crucible, winepress, cross, refiner's fire – It is all the same thing – bringing us to a place

- Where there is no glory in the flesh
- Where there is complete submission
- Where the worthless is stripped from our lives
- Where there is the fullest fruit and power operating in our lives

The threshing process: wheat – shaken; beaten with rods; oxen driven over it; threshing sledge; tossed into the air; wheat berries are crushed; made into dough and put through the fire – this is the only way the bread is served.

## 7) Being the clay

*You turn things upside down,  
as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!  
Shall what is formed say to him who formed it,  
"He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?*

Isa 29:16

All kinds of vessels are needed in the house of the Lord - and the Lord is the potter. The potter decides everything – for His purposes. We must be content to be used or not used in a given instance or season, according to the will of the potter.

## 8) Seasons (my times are in His hands)

*But I trust in you, O LORD;*

*I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands;*

Ps 31:14-15

Remember that David was hiding in a cave from Saul... after he had been anointed king! Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, Paul, all had a taste of what they were called to do, and then had to submit to the seasons of isolation and training from their God. Things don't always happen in our time. Wise men understand the seasons of their lives and submit to God's timing

Consider the story of Ahimaaz 2 Samuel 18 ("Let me run!").

## 9) I may never be totally satisfied

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

Phil 3:12-13

God has set eternity in our hearts. The irony of leadership is that we burn to see something done but are not satisfied when we see it, for now there is another goal. This is the paradox of unsatisfied satisfaction. That is what gives us the drive to press on to the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. Ultimately, God gives us the gift of longing to draw us into love and sacrifice. Often, I desire something greatly (usually for my own pleasure) – but love demands that I turn that motive around and sacrifice for that which I love.

**It is crucial to understand that if we are to experience satisfaction, it will not be in the work that we do, but in the love relationship with the Father**

- Matthew 3 – Even Jesus in His humanity had to be refreshed in the realization that He was love and pleasing to the Father.
- Paul understood his call or vocation, but ultimately his "one thing" was to know the Father.

## 10) I cannot neglect the "practical" in pursuit of the "spiritual"

*...one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)*

1 Tim 3:3-5

God wants to make us whole persons

He calls us to love Him with all our mind, soul and strength

He calls us to love others as ourselves

I believe that we are not whole people unless we do both of these

It is very common for a man to be superb in one area and have breakdowns in other areas: a pastor with a great ministry and failing health; a doctor with a great practice but losing his children; a business man with a great business but under severe stress because of no emotional margin in his life.

We have to learn to be led by the Spirit in order to live balanced and emotionally healthy lives. My entire life is my worship – family, health, job performance, ministry... all of it.

These ten points are crucial to our leadership. But there are other sacrifices you must make in order to answer the call to be a leader. Many of them will be tailored specifically to you by your Father. Failure to be okay with any of these listed above may indicate that you are not ready for leadership.