

Lesson

Servant Leadership

The Path from Success to Significance

I. There is a big difference between enduring through the leadership demands of life and leaving a joyful legacy.

A. Survival

1. You live day to day without a _____ and without focus.
2. You are highly _____ and achieve little results.
3. You are often caught in the tyranny of the urgent.
4. Life is not much fun, and key relationships are at risk.
5. You feel frustrated and personal _____ are evident.

B. Success

1. You gain momentum, and things begin to land in your favor.
2. You realize measurable _____. You get desired results.
3. Some of life's _____ and enjoyment begin to come your way.
4. You will likely experience a _____ sense of security.
5. There is a sense of _____ unrest.

The pathway from success to significance is a servant's heart.

C. Significance

1. You know who you are, and you are _____ in Christ.
2. You experience a deep sense of personal peace.
3. You possess a clear sense of _____.
4. Your passion level runs deep, and your focus is strong.
5. You experience a profound sense of _____ and fulfillment
6. Your constellation of relationships is flourishing.
7. You see abundant _____ as a result of your life and leadership.

II. Characteristics of a Servant Leader

A. A servant leader is _____ - _____ and attentive to character issues.

B. A servant leader puts others ahead of his own agenda.

Easy to say, difficult to live.

- _____ to other's needs
- _____ to other's needs

3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3–4

C. A servant leader is _____ in his own identity.

*"The remarkable thing is that we really love our neighbors as ourselves; we do unto others as we do unto ourselves. We hate others when we hate ourselves. We are tolerant toward others when we tolerate ourselves. We forgive others when we forgive ourselves. It is not love of self but hatred of self which is at the root of the troubles that afflict our world."
Eric Hoffer*

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Romans 12:3

D. Servant leaders understand how to _____ servanthood and leadership.

*"Yes, you lead by serving, but the major expression of your service is your leadership."
Fred Smith, Learning to Lead*

E. A servant leader is a mature listener.

- Listening communicates _____ and concern
- Listening communicates that you _____ the person

- Listening communicates the _____ of God

F. A servant leader has a generous spirit.

- Giving is at the heart of servanthood.
- Giving is the _____ of a servant.
- Giving according to God's heart is evidenced by _____.
- Giving ultimately is following the example of Jesus.

G. A servant leader is willing to give up his rights.

- The right to put yourself first. Philippians 2:3–4
- The right to complain. Philippians 2:14, I Thessalonians 5:18
- The right to do whatever feels good. Galatians 5:16–17
- The right to hold a grudge. Colossians 3:13
- The right to live by our own rules. John 14:23–24
- The right to understand God's plan before we obey. Hebrews 11:8
- The right to be honored and served. Mark 10:42–45
- The right to spend money any way we please. Matthew 5:11
- The right to popularity. Matthew 5:11
- The right to personal revenge. Romans 12:19–20

H. A servant leader _____ easily and quickly.

³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

I. A servant leader is not position-conscious.

- Non-servants reach for _____.
- Servants reach for _____.

¹It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. ²The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; John 13:1–3

⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:4–5

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" John 13:6–9

- Non-servants love _____
- Servants love _____
- Non-servants find joy in _____
- Servants find joy in _____

III. **Practical Application of Servant Leadership through the Local Church**

A. Support your leader.

- Give your leader permission to dream big dreams.
- Give your leader permission to _____ .
- Give your leader permission to _____ .

B. Make a commitment to _____ for your church.

Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer"...

- Pray for people who are far from God to trust Christ as Savior.
- Pray for God's favor and His power through the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for a spirit of love and unity.
- Pray for a maturing of the body of Christ.
- Pray for the leaders in the church.

C. Devote yourself to a spirit of servant leadership that results in life change.

- Do you believe you have the _____ of a servant?
- Who, among those close to you, would say you have a servant's heart as a leader?
- Are you leading/serving in your area of passion and giftedness?
- Are you producing _____?
- Whose _____ are you impacting?

Application Guide

Spiritual Leadership

J. Oswald Sanders

Chapter One An Honorable Ambition

1. Do you seek leadership, or does leadership seek you? (There is a thin line between the two.) How do you answer this personally? How do you think it should be?

2. If it's true that true greatness comes from giving yourself away in service to others (Mark 10:42–44), how do you integrate this with your concept of leadership?

Chapter Two The Search for Leaders

1. No answer is needed here; instead, make this quote your meditation and prayer.

"The road to spiritual authority and leadership"...

Is not won by promotion, but by many prayers and tears. It is attained by confession of sin, and much heart-searching and humbling before God; by self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold uncomplaining embrace of the cross, and by an eternal, unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified. It is not gained by seeking great things for ourselves, but like Paul, by counting those things that are gain to us as loss for Christ. This is a great price, but it must be paid by the leader who would not be merely a nominal but a real spiritual leader of men, a leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven, on earth, and in hell.

Samuel Brengle, Salvation Army

Chapter Six Insights on Leadership from Paul

1. I Timothy is a classic section of scripture on the qualifications for leadership. Reflect again through the categories Sanders offers and make brief notes on where you excel and where you need improvement.

- Social Qualifications
- Moral Qualifications
- Mental Qualifications
- Personality Qualifications
- Domestic Qualifications
- Maturity

Chapter Seven Insights on Leadership from Peter

Great chapter; just enjoy, no questions.

Chapters Eight and Nine Essential Qualities of Leadership

These chapters are two of the best; read them thoroughly. You do not have to give any answers, *but you are to find someone to answer these questions about you.* You can select anyone. You can select an employee, a teenage child of your own, someone you mentor, or even your spouse.

1. Here's how this will work. First, the person you select reads both chapters and then jots down a few brief comments about you and your leadership under each category.

- Discipline
- Vision and Inspirational Power
- Wisdom
- Decision-making
- Courage
- Humility
- Integrity and Sincerity
- Humor
- Anger (self-control)

- Patience
- Friendship
- Tact and Diplomacy

Chapter Ten Above All Else

1. Are you a spirit-filled leader? How do you know? Describe the evidence.

Chapter Eleven Prayer and Leadership

Another great chapter...since we have spent time on this topic in month two, just read and soak in the truth of this chapter — no questions.

Chapter Twelve A Leader and Time

1. William James said that the best use of one's life is to spend it on something that will outlast it. What do you believe will outlast you, resulting from your life on earth? (Reflect on your purpose statement)

Chapter Thirteen The Leader and Reading

Well, enough said ... keep on reading!

Chapter Fourteen Improving Leadership

1. How do you keep your spiritual life/spiritual leadership at a boiling point?

Chapter Fifteen The Cost of Leadership

1. Choose one of the following categories and briefly describe how you have paid the price as a leader.
 - Loneliness
 - Fatigue
 - Criticism
 - Rejection
 - Pressure and Perplexity

Chapter Sixteen The Responsibilities of Leadership

Edward White Benson (1829–1896) The Archbishop of Canterbury offers us a great list to reflect upon of the responsibilities of a leader. Read and Reflect. No need to write your answer, but marking the book is a good idea.

Chapter Seventeen Tests of Leadership

1. Which is your greatest leadership "test"? Why?

- Compromise
- Ambition
- The impossible situation
- Failure
- Jealousy

Chapter Eighteen The Art of Delegation

1. Do you believe you delegate well? Why/Why not?

Chapters Nineteen and Twenty Replacing/Reproducing Leaders

1. Do you have an apprentice leader you are investing in? Who? What are you doing?

Chapter Twenty-one The Perils of Leadership

Chapter Twenty-two The Leader Nehemiah

Two great chapters; read and reflect. Enjoy and soak up the good stuff!

(No questions to answer.)