

Jesus On Leadership

By Ken Love

When you look 'leadership' up in a concordance, you realize that Jesus didn't talk much about the subject -- at least not directly. Yet leadership flowed from everything He said and did, giving birth to a movement that has gone forth for thousands of years. Consider the book of Mathew, chapter 5 -- the Sermon on the Mount. Talk about leadership orientation! Jesus gives His disciples solid teaching on Kingdom values.

Another example is found in the book of Mark, chapter 3:13-14. After a quick read, it appears to be about the calling of the first disciples. And while that is true, there's so much more going on. When you read it again, you see Jesus calling the first key relationships in a visionary movement.

(Note: If you are familiar with the life cycle of a church, this is the second step. The first step is for a leader to be captured by a vision. The second is to have key relationships through which the vision will move into implementation and expansion.)

Going back to the book of Matthew, Jesus is fairly direct with this claim, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." He offers a clear vision of more than what they were to do, but who they were to become!

Don't miss this key point: Jesus begins with a vision. The disciples are not called to just hang around him. They are designated apostles! They are to be the ones through whom the vision will expand and move. They are the sent ones.

After calling people into leadership, the first key step is to give them a vision of who they can be; what they can do; and how they can impact the world. Leaders must not make the mistake of simply collecting leaders. They are to be empowered and sent out. Leadership development may be stunted if we do not follow Jesus' example.

Did you catch that He chose those he wanted? He chose people he clearly knew. We're encouraged in Scripture to not to be so hasty in the laying on of hands (1 Timothy). Putting the wrong person in leadership can create a problem with multi-layers. Following Jesus' example, we must know the people we call into service. He spent time with the disciples. They even went fishing!

As you identify a potential leader, pray. Ask God for His vision for that individual. Stay in conversation with the person and don't discount opportunities to have fun. Talk about your vision and see if their eyes light up. Pray together. Take

them through a Bible study. Challenge them to step up and lead a lesson. Know them. Then, call them.

If a visionary calling is done well, everyone will benefit from having a framework from which to operate. Look at how Jesus always discussed everything with the disciples in light of their mission. When the disciples began a conversation about being greatest in the Kingdom, Jesus used that moment to teach them about true Kingdom greatness, calling them back to their role as servants who are sent, not lords who sit!

In developing leaders for our churches (and churches yet to be planted), it is critical for the current leadership to be intentional about discipleship. Are we collecting or developing leaders? Are we carefully getting to know our potential leaders, appropriately challenging them and sharing a vision of greater impact and greater ministry?

Who are the next three people you could move toward leadership? If you want your church to have greater impact and influence, it will eventually come down to those with whom you are investing.

Jesus developed leaders. So can you. Who is on your list?