

Reading the Scripture as a Leader  
*Give it a try!*

By Ken Love

Why do you read Scripture? To discover the heart of God? Great answer. Character development? No book like the Word of God goes deeper into our heart and soul, revealing our core motives and desires.

What about reading Scripture for vision? For marching orders and missional obedience? Clearly God's heart is for the lost. The letters written to churches were mostly written by a man on a mission -- Paul, who was sold out to help others come to know Jesus Christ. Reading the Word for only one's personal discipleship would miss the point of his mission!

What if we read Scripture for our personal word but then read it again to observe leadership? Many of the men and women in the Bible could be considered leaders because of their influence over people and culture. Granted, some were reluctant leaders such as the prophet Amos, but leaders nonetheless!

Look at David. What kind of leadership did he display as he was running from Saul? How did his "running years" prepare him for future leadership roles? What does his experience teach us about a leader's preparation phase?

What about the time when David refused to drink the water given to him by three of his mighty men? Instead, he pours it out as an offering to God. Go back and read the narrative in Samuel. He wanted the water, but in the end, recognized the sacrifice made to retrieve it. What leadership lesson is David sharing?

Look at the letters of Paul. What if we read those from a leader's heart and mind, even those passages that seem more relational? Take I Thessalonians for example. What does this book tell us about the importance of relationships and how can a leader leverage those relationships to engage and motivate others?

And how can we cast vision like Paul so that others have an eye on eternity? Paul takes their questions about death and dying and connects those concerns to eternal truths. How can we do that?

Character, wisdom for decisions, commands and mission are all critical reasons to read the Word. But have you sat with the Lord and asked Him to teach you leadership from the Scripture? The anointed Word can develop in us spiritual leadership that grasps the best practices of today's leaders and then goes beyond to the heart of God and the wiring of His people.

Leaders – seek the presence of God and ask Him to teach you from the heavenlies. We'd love to hear what you are learning!

