

Leadership Begins with Followership
1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13
Pastor Dave Bennett

Daily Bible Readings
June 8-14

Introduction

We believe that the church is called to equip people to “lead like Jesus” in the home, in the congregation, in the community, in the marketplace and in the world. We believe that our world stands in desperate need of servant leaders, people of integrity, committed to excellence and teamwork, in every sphere of life. We desire to engage in continuous leadership development within the church, and to raise up leaders who will be respected and sought for their wisdom and their skills by those outside the church as well.

I. Where did the leadership training of the disciples begin?

Matthew 4:18-20; John 21: 22; I Peter 3:21

II. What do our leaders need from us?

- A. Respect (I Thessalonians 5:12)
- B. Affirmation (I Thessalonians 5:13)
- C. Love (I Thessalonians 5:13)
I Corinthians 13; I Thessalonians 4:9,10)
- D. Freedom from intimidation (I Corinthians 16:10)
II Corinthians 10:10; 13:5; Titus 3:10
- E. Acceptance (I Corinthians 16:11)
II Corinthians 6:11-13
- F. Submission (I Corinthians 16:15,16; Hebrews 13:7,17)
I Corinthians 15:22-28

III. Avoiding the common dangers

- A. Following blindly
- B. Following the wrong leader
Numbers 14:4
- C. Refusing to follow any leader

IV. Following in the footsteps of Jesus

- A. Model good followership
- B. Find ways to say, “Come and see . . . Come follow me”
- C. Open leadership responsibilities to good followers

Questions for application:

1. Where are you in your following of Jesus?
2. How could you bring greater joy to the leaders in your life—in your home, at work, at school, in the church?
3. Whom are you inviting to walk alongside you and learn from you?

Follow-Throughs

Monday Matthew 4:18-22; 8:19-22; 9:9; 10:37-39; 16:24-26

What do you learn from these passages about following Jesus? Where is Jesus calling you to follow him today?

Tuesday I Corinthians 3:1-16

Where did the Corinthians go wrong in their attitudes toward human leaders? How did Paul want them to see himself as well as other leaders? How can you guard against a divisive spirit with regard to leaders in the church?

Wednesday I Corinthians 13

How is love defined in these verses? According to these criteria, how well are you loving the leaders in our congregation? Is there any area in which you need to ask the Lord's forgiveness? Is there anyone else whose forgiveness you need to ask?

Thursday II Corinthians 10:7-11; 11:1-6; 12:11-19; 13:1-10

What sort of criticisms were the Corinthians making about Paul? In what ways were they comparing him unfavorably to other leaders? If you read all the verses of chapters 10 through 13 it will give you even more of a context. What do these verses reveal about Paul's own attitudes and motives as a leader? Pray today for the leaders God has placed in your life, and for your attitude toward them.

Friday Numbers 13:1 – 14:45

What contrasts do you see in this passage between leaders who were trusting in God and those who were not? Which sort of leaders are you listening to most intently?

Warm-Ups

Saturday Matthew 20:17-23

What did Jesus tell his disciples about the future he was facing? What were the costs of leadership for Jesus? Have you experienced any costs of leadership?

Sunday Matthew 20:24-28

Why were the other ten disciples indignant? How is the leadership to which Jesus calls us different from the leadership with which the world is familiar?