

Lesson 14 – Servanthood & Leadership

Introduction

In the Kingdom of God, greatness is not measured by power, position, or recognition, but by service. Jesus redefined leadership for His disciples: leaders are not those who lord authority over others but those who serve in humility and love. Every disciple is called to influence others, but true influence flows from servanthood. This lesson shows that discipleship always comes before leadership, and leadership always flows through service.

Teaching Session

1. Leadership in God's Kingdom

Mark 10:42–45 (NIV)

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Worldly leadership = control and dominance.
 - Kingdom leadership = service and sacrifice.
 - Jesus is the model: He led by laying His life down.
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2. The Example of Christ's Humility

Philippians 2:5–8 (NIV)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!

- Christ's leadership flowed from humility, not entitlement.
 - True leadership requires emptying ourselves of pride and self-interest.
 - Servanthood is obedience, even when costly.
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3. Leading by Example

John 13:12–15 (NIV)

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

- Jesus demonstrated servanthood practically.
 - True leaders are willing to take the lowest place.
 - Leadership is teaching by example, not just instruction.
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4. Faithful Stewardship in Leadership

Luke 16:10 (NIV)

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

- Servant leaders prove faithful in small things before greater responsibility.
 - God tests character through stewardship.
 - Leadership begins with faithfulness, not position.
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5. Equipping and Multiplying Others

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NIV)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

- Leadership exists to equip others, not elevate oneself.
 - Servant leaders build up the Body of Christ.
 - Leadership is measured by multiplication, not self-promotion.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. How does Jesus’ definition of leadership differ from the world’s definition?
2. In what ways does Philippians 2 challenge you to lead with humility?
3. What does it look like in today’s world to “wash others’ feet”?

4. How can you practice faithfulness in the “little things” God has entrusted to you?
 5. Why is equipping others a crucial part of servant leadership?
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Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* (Mark 10:45, NIV)
 - **Personal Reflection:** Write down one area where God has given you influence (family, work, ministry). Ask yourself: Am I leading to be seen, or am I serving to build others up? Commit to one act of humble service this week.
 - **Group Activity:** Each group member shares an example of someone who modeled servant leadership in their life. Discuss how those examples impacted your growth as a disciple. End by praying for a spirit of humility and service in your leadership.
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