

THE SERVICE OF LEADERSHIP

(Part 1)

Introduction

- 1) Those who occupy positions of *leadership* have a vital and serious responsibility
 - a) Earthly leaders (Prov. 16:12)
 - b) Spiritual leaders (Acts 20:28)
- 2) One of the most important aspects of leadership is that of *service* (1 Kgs. 12:6-7)
 - a) Those in authority often overlook or ignore their duty to humbly serve (vv. 14-15a)
 - b) Others lead blindly, or deliberately, into the danger of sin (Isa. 3:12b; 9:16; Matt. 15:14)
- 3) Need to examine the *service of leadership* in society, the church, and the home
 - a) Leaders encourage submissive service by being good servants themselves
- 4) First examine Jesus as the perfect example of a serving lord and master

I) JESUS – The Perfect Service of Leadership

A) *By Example* (Jn. 13:1-17)

- 1) Was the teacher and lord of the disciples – position of leadership and authority (v. 13)
 - a) Also fully aware of the authority and exaltation that was to be given to Him after His suffering (vv. 1-3; 17:1-2; Matt. 28:18)
- 2) Willingly and humbly performed the common servant task of washing the disciples' feet (vv. 4-11)
- 3) Lesson: If leaders serve those they lead, all should seek to serve others (vv. 12-15)
 - a) Happiness is found in serving the needs of others
- 4) Father and Christ daily serve our physical and spiritual needs (Acts 14:17; 17:25; Jn. 3:16; Jas. 1:17; 2 Pet. 1:3)

B) *By Instruction* (Matt. 20:24-28; Mk. 10:41-45; Lk. 22:24-26)

- 1) Occasions for teaching happened when resentment (Matt, Mk) and rivalry (Lk) arose among the disciples
- 2) "It shall not be so among you" (vv. 25-26a – selfish tyrannical rule)
 - a) "Lord it over" (Gk. *katakuriuo*) – to lord against, control, subjugate (Strong); high-handed rule (Vincent)
 - b) "Exercise authority" (Gk. *katexousiazō*) – to wield full privilege over (Strong); play the tyrant (Robertson)
- 3) Whoever would be first and great, being a servant is required – opposite of worldly leadership that dominates others with intimidation, bullying, and threatening
 - a) Jesus uses Himself as the perfect example of a leader servant – came not to be served as Lord and Master, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Phil. 2:5-8)

II) Godly Qualities of Leaders Who Serve

- A) Treat others as one would want to be treated (Matt. 7:12)
- B) Be careful with words (Prov. 21:23; 29:11)
- C) Persistence (Gal. 6:9)
- D) Seek peace and reconciliation (Rom. 12:18)
- E) Emphasize obeying the law (Gal. 6:2)
- F) Integrity (Psa. 78:72)
- G) Unselfishness (Phil. 2:3-4)

Conclusion

Next lesson will be the scriptural application of the service of leadership to civil government, the workplace, the church, and the home. Let us hear and obey God's word!