

# Week 29: "Handling Authority"

## Day One: "Servant Leadership"

Read: Ephesians 6:9, Matthew 20:20-28

**Reflect:** Who in your life demonstrated "servant leadership"? What experiences did you have with that individual that demonstrated this kind of leadership?

**Dig:** Notice what Jesus had just disclosed to them in the previous verses (see Matthew 20:17-19). What does this tell you about Jesus' self-control?

Does Jesus think that the ambition to be first is wrong? (See verses 26-28.)

What is the "cup" that Jesus is talking about? (See Matthew 26:39, 42.)

What does drinking this cup have to do with leadership? (See Hebrews 5:7-8.)

**Apply:** How can you lead by the example of Jesus Christ today? In other words, what act of service and help can you give to others?

## Week Twenty-Nine: "Handling Authority"

### Day Two: "Purposeful Leadership"

Read: Ephesians 6:9, Genesis 11:1-9

**Reflect:** What leader in your life has set before you a grand purpose that has inspired you?

**Dig:** The following is a quote from the "Freedom in Christ Bible" in a "Freedom Point" on page 15.

Satan suggested to Adam and Eve that they could be like God and make their own decisions rather than submit to God. Satan used the same approach with the people of Babel, though he is not mentioned by name in this account.

God had commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and increase in number. But the people of Babel said, in essence, "Let's not do that. Let's make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." They rebelled against God, and the resulting confusion of languages was the judgment of God on their rebellion.

The implications of this judgment were far-reaching because the message of God would have to be communicated in many languages rather than just one. The problem we now face of many thousands of languages and cultures all began with the rebellion at Babel. But God had a plan to deal with this issue. He first established the nation of Israel as his channel of revelation to other nations. They were God's missionary nation. Then, in the New Testament, God established the church and gave it a basic command to make disciples of all nations.

How does it help you understand the way this passage (Genesis 11:1-9) fits into the rest of scripture?

Read: Acts 2:1-12 and answer this question: why is this incident (Pentecost) sometimes referred to as "the reversal of Babel"?

According to the understanding, what was the missing ingredient in the leadership of the Tower of Babel?

According to this account, whose name were they trying to build up?

Whose name should they have been building up?

**Apply:** Since in unity there is such power, ask God for alliances and unity in your life and in our church which are according to the will of God. Repent of bonds which are formed to do evil and gain power or lead people down the wrong pathway.

## **Week Twenty-Nine: "Handling Authority"**

### **Day Three: "Shared Leadership"**

**Read:** Ephesians 6:9, Numbers 11

**Reflect:** When have you shared a burden (either physical or emotional/spiritual) so that it was lighter because others helped you carry it?

**Dig:** What does the tone of Moses' conversation with God (see verse 10-15) tell you about Moses' relationship with God?

How does Moses' response to Joshua give evidence of humble leadership?

What does this passage tell you about how the church ought to be run? How many ought to be making leadership decisions? What should the influence and power of the elders be?

Since leading people can be such a burdensome task, how does God provide? How did he provide encouragement in this situation?

How did he provide encouragement in Acts 20:32-38?

How does God provide for the encouragement of our leaders at Madison Square?

**Apply:** Think of a way to encourage your pastors, elders, deacons or a staff person this coming

week (a note, email, phone call).

## **Week Twenty-Nine: "Handling Authority"**

### **Day Four: "Humble Intercession"**

**Read: Ephesians 6:9, Numbers 14**

**Reflect:** How are prayer for people and humility opposite sides of a coin? Why does prayer manufacture humility?

**Dig:** What is inspiring about the speech that Moses and Joshua give in verses 5-9?

What is Moses concerned about in verses 13-19? What does that tell you about a leader's priorities?

How is Caleb described in verse 24?

What does God's response in forgiving them (verse 20) and yet letting them suffer the earthy consequences of their sin (verse 21-23) tell you about how God handles our sin?

**Apply:** Write out a prayer in the space provided in which you intercede for a leader that you know who needs a heart like the heart of Moses.

## **Week Twenty-Nine: "Holy Work"**

### **Day Five: "Lectio Divina"**

**Read: Matthew 20:26-28** "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must become your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -- -- just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and gave his life as a ransom for many."

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness: after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life: write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.