

July 20, 2003

Week Thirty-seven: "Servant Leadership"

Day One: Small Group Guide

Read: Matthew 20:20-28 (p. 1106)

Read: Commentary (p. 1107)

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 p. 1116)

What does drinking this cup have to do with leadership? (see Hebrews 5:7-8 p. 1425)

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

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Day Two: "Balance of Power"

Read: Deuteronomy 17:14-18:22 (p. 211)

Read: Commentary: (p. 212)

Reflect: How does power get balanced out in your experience (church, school, job)?

Why do human beings need power to be checked?

Dig: How is power balanced out in the New Testament age?
See Acts 6:1-6 (p. 1243)

See 1 Timothy 3:11-13 (p. 1397)

Why is the plurality of leaders important? (see Jeremiah 17:9 (p. 850)

Apply: Pray for the leadership of our congregation: that the two pastors would submit to each other and respect each other as they have been doing. Pray that our elders and deacons would lead with humility and wisdom.

Week Thirty-seven: "Servant Leadership"
Day Three: "Purposeful Leadership"

Read: Genesis 11:1-9 (p. 15)

Read: Commentary (p. 16)

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

Dig: Read the "Freedom Point" on p. 15. How does it help you understand the way this passage fits into the rest of scripture?

Read: Acts 2:1-12 (p. 1234) and answer this question: why is this incident (Pentecost) sometimes referred to as "the reversal of Babel"?

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

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 Thirty-seven: "Servant Leadership"
Day Four: "Shared Leadership"

Read: Numbers 11 (p. 156)

Read: Commentary (p. 157)

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 (p. 1264)?

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).

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Day Five: "Humble Intercession"

Read: Numbers 14 (p. 162)

Read: Commentary (p. 163)

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: Ask God to make you a servant leader like Moses.