

## What All Leaders Should Know...

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**Abstract:** *When we stand upon the verge of the unknown, either in a presidential mansion in America or in a wartime concentration camp in Germany... to the primitive huts in the remote corners of the world... whatever be the case, a leader is one who brings in the word of encouragement and inspiration just suited for the moment's need. Leaders who meet the physical, spiritual, economic and political needs of the people are most wanted nowadays...In this paper, I will explore what all leaders should know and be like, based on the proven facts followed by the Greatest Leader ever lived on earth- Jesus Christ!*

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### Introduction

There is a mistaken belief in the world that leadership means having authority over people. However, the true realm of authority is learning not to boss over others. Our leaders have the authority to shape our land and even the upcoming generation. Without the right leader, a nation falls, individuals suffer, and hope is lost. Although this concept is tough to admit, people should always remember to wear their character as an identity card and not their position (who they are).

### So, whom can we consider as a leader?

A person who continues to be successful for a long time and has something that one can learn from, to uplift could rightly be called a leader in its right sense. There are countless experts and self-proclaimed experts who speak often on the topic, but we still suffer from 'leadership deficiency'. This is because we have too many leaders who trust their position, commands their influence, rather than their influence permitting them to be effective in their position. As Lee Ann Rubsam observes in 'Leadership, Jesus-Style, "Leaders keep their eyes open for ways to serve – even if it is going to be insignificant. They never wait for someone to, do a job that has to be attended to rather they see the need and meet it." If you are a leader or want to become one, check out if you possess these most important qualities in my perspective because, even if they sound odd at first and seem contrary to common leadership thought, biblical principles have stood the test of time.

It is no secret that Jesus led his disciples, a group of poor, uneducated men to carry on a message that has lasted for so many years. It is amazing to know that he built a thriving enterprise with twelve disorganized "staff". Definitely, if it had been for us today, we would have been stressed out but it wasn't the case with Jesus! Research has confirmed that stress can significantly increase the risk of illness and can affect the mind, body and spirit. So, what exactly is stress? What is the relationship between stress and leadership? Well, in simple terms, 'stress is the way

you react to what is happening to you'. It is how you observe and manage with stress, is all that matters!

No matter who or where we are, the techniques used by Jesus could be definitely used. One person who trained twelve men from different walks of life, taught them even how to pray (The Lord's Prayer), went on to influence the world (a perfect testimony is the Gullah). He turned the tide wherever he went. Throughout the New testament (Holy Bible), it's mentioned that Jesus, the Leader always lifted up people, wherever he went. Not one instance is quoted about Jesus trampling another human. It would be wise if all leaders could remember the story **Yertle the Turtle**, by Dr. Seuss. It's not only using others as stepping stones but also never dominate over others.

Many of today's leaders lead by compulsion - a 'my way' mindset that makes them more like dictators. The spirit of oppression tries to overcome every leader. When viewed from a spiritual angle, it is one of the guns in the demonic realm. As you are reading this, you might be visualizing someone you know in a leadership position that drives more than they lead but it is mandatory for all of us to quickly introspect. John Maxwell, an author and expert rightly says that leadership is about one life influencing another and not about titles, positions or flowcharts.

Obviously, great leaders are hard to find nowadays. We've all come across the 'know-it-all' leader, the "submit-or-else" type of leader. Yet most of the leaders aren't engrossed in investigating an opposing viewpoint or ideas and have lost the capacity to identify with others. In the Holy Bible, (Luke19:1-10), the story of Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector is mentioned. The story revolves around Zacchaeus, who was considered a thief because he collected money more than what people actually owed to the government and keep the extra money for himself, that's the reason why people hated him. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, he knew Zacchaeus was a sinner but decided to spend time with him. People murmured and complained that Jesus shouldn't spend time with a sinner like Zacchaeus. They didn't comprehend that everyone is a sinner but God's love is for everyone was what Jesus was showing them. When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his priorities changed! Zacchaeus decided to give half of his money to the poor and pay back four times more than he had stolen. This was a turning point in Zacchaeus' life. Jesus did not work only with the smart, the beautiful, and the rich, though, it is a strategy which is followed by most of the leaders today. Instead, preferred to spend time with the people deemed 'worthless', weak and disliked by society. In a way, our lives are similar. It is easy for most of us to look at others and think they are "worse" than we are or in other words, we might feel, we are better off than them. But, if you are a leader, don't look at people, the way others look at them... Watch and correct the wrongdoers in a gentle way.

Another dominating element in the life of a leader is 'criticism'. As Rick Warren has pointed out, if you have influenced someone somewhere then, you would definitely be criticised and Jesus

was no exception. Certainly, criticism is always heart wrenching but what should you do? At first, you have to accept the fact that you can't please everyone. Remember that the people who are close to you can pass on a negative criticism very easily even without thinking about its consequences. It's very true because, unless you are really close to someone, it is difficult to stab them in the back. Jesus experienced this when he visits his hometown. People out there refuse to accept his teachings but criticize. Jesus did not become angry neither did he argue with them nor did he hold a grudge, instead his focus was on his job. If you are a leader, don't bother about who is criticizing you or hate those who criticize you. Sometimes criticism is based on gossip. So, stay focused and be determined to achieve what God has set in front of you.

However, focused you might seem to be... there will be occasions when a person walks into your room and sees everything wrong with it. They are 'the glass is always half empty' kind of people – whom negativity reigns. In the life of Jesus, the Pharisees and the scribes were the negative voices. Jesus knew who they were and whatever they said did not surprise him. Instead, he paid attention to what they had to say. He did not avoid them but accepted them as such. Jesus did not let their negative spirit overpower his positive spirit. As a leader, you should have the ability to know what a person is going through by just looking at them. Not only this but also be attuned to the body language, voice modulation and eye movement of those around him. Remember if you are a leader, you should never forget that even a broken clock will show the correct time twice a day. A negative person has the ability to see something wrong in whatever they see. You can use his eyes to learn so don't let negativity hold you back!

### **Conclusion**

God has indeed given a treasure trove of ideas for leaders who are challenged by criticism, frustration, people-problems, negativity, arrogance and many other issues though we have discussed only a few important points that a leader must-have. Keeping these points in mind, it is difficult to find a human leader who has accomplished in all the above the qualities...let's not lose faith and hope for a better tomorrow. With love as the basis of leadership, anyone could be the great leader people earn for, not to mention, that leader could be you. If you want to...

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