

A Biblical Case Study Jesus as Leader
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Kimball (1978) posits Jesus as a leader, having many qualities of leadership one could possibly cover. The writer wanted to point out a few of the attributes and skills he demonstrated so perfectly. The same skills and qualities important for us all if we wish to succeed as leaders in any lasting way.

As a leader Jesus portrayed a set of fixed principles of who he was and why he was here on this planet. Leading from strength rather than from uncertainty or weakness. Jesus operated from a base of fixed principles and truths rather than making up the rules as he went along. His leadership style was not only correct, but constant. Many secular leaders change views to fit the situation. Which tends to confuse associates and followers who cannot be certain what course is being pursued.

Jesus said several times, "Come, follow me." His leadership was a program of "do what I do," rather than "do what I say." His natural brilliance could have permitted him to put on a impressive display, leaving his followers far behind. However, he walked and worked with those he was to serve. His was not a long-distance leadership. He was not afraid of close friendships; or that proximity to him would disappoint his followers. Jesus knew the pervasive of true leadership could not lift others unless he was willing serve those to be led.

The writer continues Jesus was a listening leader. He loved others with perfect listening without being condescending. Displaying great leadership by listening not only to others, but also to his conscience and to the promptings of God. Jesus was patient a pleading and loving leader. When Peter drew his sword and smote the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear, Jesus said, "Put up thy sword into the sheath" (John 18:11). Without being angry or disturbed, Jesus quietly healed the servant's ear (see Luke 22:51). Although, a loving and caring leader yet

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firm. Jesus reproved Peter at times because he loved him. From that encounter Peter, became a great man, able to grow from that reproof. “The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. “He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.” (Prov. 15:31–32.)

Matthew 28:16-20 reads “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then **Jesus** came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in** the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This leadership style was his leadership was of a higher purpose from God to those who followed and obeyed. One of developing leaders.

Was Jesus fully aware of his position as leader?

The scriptures state that Jesus was fully aware of his position as leader (v. 14). Before the disciples experienced him as their servant, they had already experienced him many times before as Master, and as a strong and extremely powerful leader. Jesus voluntarily becomes a servant to his followers (v. 5-12).

Boers (2015 p109) posits that when Jesus understood that his followers were about to force him as King. He took refuge alone on a mountain, (John 6:15). Because success and relevance was not his priority. Popularity was not among his aim. Jesus as leader showed examples that some goals, as noble as they sound, are not worth prioritizing, and as contemporary leader one of his traits, even as a successful one, were not always the best models. Jesus’ assembled with the poor communities, rejected and marginalized (P114).

Jesus and Selflessness as a Leader

Jesus had much to say about selflessness during his ministry. Example, Sermon on the Mount, where he goes beyond what some may think of as selflessness. Helping a friend, ministering to a spouse, and caring for an ill child. Jesus extended selflessness far beyond the normal expectations. Statements as we are to

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love our enemies, even, pray for our persecutors (Matthew 5:44). Jesus taught that it's easy to love a friend or a spouse—even unbelievers do that (Matthew 5:47). The Christian is expected to love the unlovable, this is how we become more like God, who gives blessings to everyone (Matthew 5:45). It's a difficult thing to lay aside hurt feelings and wounded hearts, but that's part of being selfless.

In so many areas, Jesus was the ultimate example of selflessness. Coming into this world, he made himself nothing. Took upon Himself the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:7). Now, as followers of Christ, we are to have the same mindset (Philippians 2:5). Jesus came not for His own benefit but for ours. He came to minister to us and die for us: “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).

Humanly speaking, Jesus gave up His will for God's will (Luke 22:42) another salient point. Selflessness involves more than putting other people first; it is putting God first.

Selflessness was illustrated well in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:29–37. It's a story about a man from Samaria who encounters a robbery victim. The Samaritan has compassion on this man, who had been stripped, beaten, and left for dead (Luke 10:30). The Samaritan immediately puts his own plans on hold and tends to the man's wounds (Luke 10:34). Not only does the Samaritan give selflessly of his time and his sympathy, but he gives selflessly of his assets. The Samaritan places the wounded man on his own animal, takes the man to an inn, and takes care of him there (Luke 10:34–35). The next day, the Samaritan pays the innkeeper money enough for a few more days at the inn, with a promise to return and pay the balance of whatever was owed (Luke 10:35). Jesus' story reveals the Samaritan to be selfless in numerous ways. He put the needs of others ahead of his own and went out of his way to shower benevolence on a battered stranger. True follower of an example of selflessness of Jesus.

Jesus The Ultimate leader of Guidance

Therefore, concluding Jesus as leader was not a typical leader. He didn't come to earth the first time to rule in might and power, although He could have. He came as a servant, willing to do the Father's work, live a perfect life, and die on a cross to take the punishment He didn't deserve. He was humble, obedient,

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loving, selfless, and sacrificial. This is not the way the world would describe a leader, but isn't it the kind of person you would want to follow? Jesus didn't come to call the richest, smartest, or prettiest people. He first called fishermen, ordinary people like you and me, to follow Him. There was nothing special about them except the fact that Jesus chose them. He was going to do amazing things through the men that followed Him, and He made them fishers of men and still does that today. He is the perfect leader and He will use those who follow Him to do the good works He has planned for us to do (Kimball 1978).

The writer continues stating Jesus knew how to involve his disciples in the process of life. He gave them important and specific things to do for their development. Jesus trusted his followers enough to share his work with them so they could grow. One of the greatest lessons of his leadership. The growth and development in followers that is important. Because Jesus knew that this life was purposeful and that we have been placed on this planet to perform and grow, growth then became one of the great ends of life as well as a means.

References

Boers, A. P. (2015). *Servants and fools: A biblical theology of leadership*. Nashville Tennessee: Abingdon Press.

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