

Sermon Description

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his death and resurrection, the disciples argued over who would hold what position of authority and leadership in Jesus' kingdom. During that encounter found in Mark 10:35-45, Jesus teaches that there is a better way to lead and exercise authority. In light of our "All Things New" series, we want to challenge our notions and ideas of leadership to better align with God's purposes.

Discussion Questions

1. What was a time that you saw a worldly or bad example of leadership? What were the effects of that type of leadership?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-5. What are the qualities of Renewed Leadership that we should look for in the leaders around us?
3. Is there a priority of these qualities or are they all of equal value in leadership?
4. How would you feel about following leaders who live out these qualities of godly leadership?
5. How do you feel about being called a leader? Even if you don't feel like a leader, can you articulate how you can lead others in your life?
6. What are areas of growth regarding leadership that you see in our church? In your own life?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the leaders in our church that they would increasingly grow in godly leadership qualities and abilities.
2. Pray that God will raise up new leaders to serve his people well and be on mission with him in proclaiming Jesus and making disciples.
3. Pray for the leaders in other areas of your life (work, politics, family, etc.) that they would humbly follow God's guidance and use wisdom in their leadership.
4. Pray for God to show you the ways that you can lead others for their good and growth.
5. Pray for God to lead our church into a fresh vision of his purpose and mission for us during our time of renewal this year.

Additional Resources

[Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast](#)

21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, John C. Maxwell

The Conviction to Lead, Albert Mohler

Sermon Notes

Renewed Leadership

Mark 10:35-45

Introduction: You have experienced or witnessed bad leadership and its effects!

Examples:

- someone with incredible sway and power over others and uses that to lead them into unhealthy or destructive actions (Jim Jones)

- someone with authority and power that they use to pressure or coerce their subordinates for their own gain or pleasure (Me Too)

- someone who cultivates relational influence to lead others into servitude and sacrifice for the leader's appetite (Tinder Swindler)

- someone who has clear leadership gifts or abilities but they make everything about themselves and seek all the glory and credit (boss claims your ideas and work as own)

- someone who is domineering and controlling and tears down or belittles those under their leadership (a domineering father or pastor)

In light of our "All Things New" series, we want to challenge our notions and ideas of leadership to better align with God's purposes.

What is leadership? Authority and ruling, decision making, vision casting, direction setting,

Leadership as a position vs. Leadership as an action

"Leadership is not something you say, it is something you do." -Winsome Sears

John Maxwell - "Leadership is influence. Nothing more, nothing less." "Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

Aubrey Malphurs - "Influence is the key word in any definition of leadership."

Why is leadership important?

Personal: Everyone is a follower and everyone can be a leader.

-who will we follow?

-"Leader" is a role, leadership is a behavior that anyone can exercise. (Leading Up)

Organizationally:

John Maxwell - "Everything rises and falls on leadership." (maybe an overstatement)

An effective leader with a bad heart has the potential to do great harm.

An ineffective leader, even with a good heart, can cause stagnation, missed opportunities, or decline.

A Renewed Leader can be used by God to do much good and to advance God's kingdom.

Less about the practical today, and more about the heart and attitude of renewed leadership.

Sanctified Leadership (Godly Leadership, Set apart for God)

1. Not serving the purposes of the world or even the purposes of the leader.
2. Understands and works for the purposes of God. (God-honoring / Why am I leading?
"Whether you lead or follow, whatever you do, do to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31)

Albert Mohler, *The Conviction to Lead* - "Wherever Christian leaders serve, in the church or in the secular world, their leadership should be driven by distinctively Christian conviction."

3. Aligns goals by asking, "What does God want from our organization?"
4. Evaluates methods according to effectiveness AND rightness.
5. Walks with the Lord and develops godly character.

Strong Leadership

-not necessarily charismatic: personalities and styles differ

1. Not controlling or domineering (Strong leadership exercises power, influence, and authority without being controlling, domineering, manipulating, or vindictive.)
2. Leads by setting an example for others to follow
3. Humble - leans on the strength of the team, takes input and criticism, admits mistakes/owns responsibility, shares credit/praise (takes the responsibility, gives away credit) (Jesus, "would you be great? True greatness comes only through humility. Control your strengths - Meekness vs. timidity.) Humility comes from understanding our relationship to God:

Albert Mohler, *The Conviction to Lead* - "What does it really mean to affirm God's sovereignty as Christian leaders? It means that God rules over all space and time and history. It means that he created the world for his glory and directs the cosmos to his purpose. It means that no one can truly thwart his plans or frustrate his determination. It means that we are secure in the knowledge that God's sovereign purpose to redeem a people through the atonement accomplished by his Son will be fully realized. And it also means that human leaders, no matter their title, rank, or job description, are not really in charge. The bottom line is this: we are merely stewards, not lords, of all that is put into our trust."

4. Makes the difficult decisions, even when unpopular (Triumphal entry = Jesus going to the cross)
5. Has a vision for what is right - (eg. protect the weaker) (Jesus cleansing the temple)

Servant Leadership

1. Not focused on being served but on serving others. (can be served, but not the focus)
2. Does not have the attitude that any work in the organization is beneath them. (Jesus washes the disciples feet)
3. Seeks the good and growth of others. (Servant leadership does not seek to do everything for the followers, but to serve the higher purposes that benefit the followers and that the followers cannot accomplish without the leader. ie. don't lose the word leader while overemphasizing servant leadership. Jesus only washed the disciples' feet once.)
4. Works as hard or harder than expects others to work.
5. Presses into the difficult parts of leadership for the good of the people/organization.

Sacrificial Leadership

"It's lonely at the top."

1. Not ambitious or greedy for gain.
2. Selfless - Does not have self as the highest priority in calculations.
3. Willing to take the loss for the good of others, the organization. (Jesus in Phil. 2)
4. Makes the right decision even if it costs the leader.
5. Lays down his life for those under his responsibility. (Can you drink my cup? Jesus on the cross)

Final Quote

Mark Dever, *The Deliberate Church* - "Not only do godly [leaders] provide an example - they also prevent much division and strife by handling potentially volatile situations with care. Their humility makes them difficult to offend; their holiness makes them easy to trust; their gentle speech makes them easy to hear as sources of correction or critique; and their hospitality provides a context for spiritual encouragement and edification. Being deliberate the godliness of our leaders matters not only because it builds up the church but also because it liberates her from the tyranny of selfish ambition and vain conceit - which in turn frees her from the contentious divisions that originate from the unchecked desires and motives of [ungodly leaders]."

Next Steps

1. Pray for your leaders!
2. Seek healing and closure from past leadership hurts.
 - a. Not doing so can sidetrack your own growth.
 - b. You are not responsible for their actions but for your response.
3. Ask, "Who am I following?" (all areas of your life)
 - a. What influences are those leaders having on my life?
 - b. Are they leading me to godly / healthy results?
 - c. What changes do I need to make regarding who I let influence me?
4. Ask, "Who am I leading?"

- a. 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow me as I follow Christ."
 - b. How can you influence and invest in others as they grow in their faith and life?
- 5. Pursue growth as a leader.
 - a. Imitate / learn from Jesus.
 - b. Find a mentor; someone who is closer to where you want to be.
 - c. Start a group or join a group of like-minded people who are on a journey of leadership growth.