

JESUS CHRIST, THE GREATEST LEADER EVER LIVED

Today there is such a mad rush to become part of some Leadership seminar or a retreat or a course etc. Most people are ready to spend a fortune to become effective leaders. Not to mention enough books on leadership that hit the market every day.

For me this is a very time tested truth, that if anyone wants to be a good , effective , successful leader, then one has to read and closely follow the path of the Greatest Leader who ever lived.

I am always fascinated to read the gospels and see the maturity, the ease with which Jesus dealt complexities of life, the love which went flowing through Him, His availability for everyone.

We often read in the Scriptures that wherever Jesus went great crowds gathered after Him. Of course Jesus is the Son of Man, who has come into this world to deliver people from sin, disease, death etc.

But Jesus was the best prototype of a leader one could ever find.

The first thing which is so striking about Jesus is that He never assumed a higher hierarchical status than the others around Him, though He had all the rights to do so.

He sat on a mount and started preaching. He did not wait for a podium or a pulpit to be brought for Him. He sat one with people and spoke to them.

I don't think Jesus was exhorting, like John the Baptist, who fiercely denounced the brood of vipers, but rather Jesus was speaking.

He looked around, saw the farmer carrying seeds and told a parable of the seed. He saw the mountain and spoke about mountain moving faith. He saw little children carried them.

He was so much with the people, that drew people to Him.

HIS LOVE AND GOODNESS

Jesus is always loving and always good. A good leader is expected to be good.

This is a big challenge to the leaders of today. We all live among short tempered souls. It is easy for a leader to be good on the inside, but screaming on the outside.

Yes Jesus was angry, but that was just a fraction, compared to the majority of moments when He was always good with others and with His own disciples.

His disciples were not afraid of Him, they could meet Jesus any time, speak to Him, give Him suggestions, (remember Peter!). Common people can call out to Him loudly in the market place.

Children loved to climb over Him. Women felt respected and loved when He was around. He could take time to talk with a Samaritan woman, He did not condemn the prostitute. He was not offended by the beggar shouting, "O Son of David, have mercy on me."

When it came to care for the individuals, the crowd did not matter for Jesus. An individual was well worth the attention of Jesus.

His love was His hallmark. Jesus was known for His love, His kindness, His goodness and His compassion.

This is so difficult to practice in our lives. Great leaders should be loving and should be generous of heart. Easy to forgive and quick to love.

Not to succumb to righteous anger and condemnation becomes such a challenge as we hold more positions and responsibilities, yet we have to look to the Great Leader and draw strength from Him to love and to serve.

JESUS RESISTED FLATTERY

This is one of the most important leadership qualities. A good leader should learn to consciously resist flattery. Flattery is like the little foxes that run around the vineyard, spoiling the precious fruit.
<http://yearningofmyfathersheart.blogspot.in/2012/11/watch-out-for-flattery.html>

The Lord has to truly give us discernment to weigh the words of those around us.

It is so important to know the truth. But when we reach a stature, all those around us, will only speak good things about us. Very rarely when a person speaks the truth in love, that person is ostracized.

That is why in olden days kings went around the city in disguise to listen to what people actually felt about the rule. This is a very important characteristic of a leader that he should be able to know the feedback from those who would not flatter him.

If a king is only surrounded by flatterers always praising bad as good, one day s/he will end up being pitied. Read a brilliant fairy tale *The Emperor's New Clothes* by Hans Andersen (http://www.andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/TheEmperorsNewClothes_e.html).

A great Emperor marched a state parade, totally naked believing the lies of his friends who said he was resplendently dressed. Finally a small child cried out the truth about the Emperor's nakedness.

Leaning to flattery may even endanger the calling of God. Jesus knew perfectly the ill effects of flattery. That is why when people wanted to lift Him up He disappeared from among them.

John 2:24-25 (NASB) ²⁴But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, ²⁵and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

TO TALK OR NOT TO.

Another great attribute of the leader is to use his speech skills appropriately. In many places in the Scriptures we read, "Jesus was silent." He was silent even in His trial. When His enemies wanted to provoke Him into blaspheming Jesus was either silent or gave another question for the Pharisees question instead of an answer.

Bridling one's tongue is one of great leadership virtues. Speaking the right word at the right time and keeping silent when one should.

Jesus did not spare the corrupt leaders. He gave verbal lashings. He spoke the truth. He stood up for the poor, for the weak and for the voiceless.

This tribe of leaders has almost become extinct. This is not all. Jesus Christ came to serve and not to be served. Imagine a leader of today washing the feet of His second line coworkers! This seems so impossible, given the corporate set up of today. Yet let us once again, realign our hearts and minds to follow this Master, to love, to serve, to touch and to heal, to speak, to be silent....

But let us once again meditate the life of Jesus and follow the footsteps of this Great Leader that ever lived.

1 Peter 2:21 (NASB) ²¹For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps

A very meaningful song by Graham Kendrick : Servant King.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrQiLEO4D5s>

