

Every Christian Leads

Matthew 5:14-16

Introduction

1. Christians enjoy a unique position in life.
 - a. We were saved to save others.
 - b. We were taught to teach others.
 - c. We were led to lead others.
2. Leadership is a hard skill, yet to be a good follower of God, we must refine our abilities in this area.
3. Being a leader requires us...

I. To Lead

- A. "You cannot lead where you do not go. You cannot tell what you do not know."
- B. If we expect others to be Christians, WE must be Christians. If we expect others to deny self, WE must do so. If we expect others to study, WE must study.
- C. We must dare to lead. See 1 Corinthians 11:1.

II. To Have Knowledge and Wisdom

- A. The God of Christianity wants us to be learners (2 Peter 1:5-8; Ephesians 4:15; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:15)!
- B. We are doomed without knowledge (Hosea 4:6).
- C. We will be poor leaders without this pair of knowledge and wisdom.
 1. Though a pair, knowledge and wisdom are independent.
 2. Wisdom is the application of knowledge.
 3. In order for wisdom to be present, there must be knowledge.

III. To Have Conviction

- A. If you're not sold, you won't be a good salesperson.
- B. See 2 Corinthians 4:13 and Acts 4:20.
- C. Why do intra-congregational leadership efforts falter so much? Answer: There is no *real* conviction that it's needed.

IV. To Have Vision

- A. If we don't know where we are going, how can we lead the way?
- B. Goal setting is entirely Scriptural (Philippians 3:14; Luke 9:51; etc.).

V. To Sacrifice

- A. We will not be the light of the world if we do not sacrifice ourselves.
- B. Consider the weight of Matthew 16:24 and 2 Timothy 3:12.
- C. We cannot remain comfortable (happy—in an ideal sense) in a LOST WORLD.

VI. To Be Courageous

- A. Fear is deadly (Numbers 13 and 14).
- B. Fear is also healthy. We must be balanced.
- C. Caleb's courageous leadership gives us a pattern (Numbers 13:30). He believed: "God is with us, and we can do what He (God) wants us to do." Consider modern-day applications.
 - 1. in church discipline (2 Thessalonians 3:6)
 - 2. in marking unfaithful churches/individuals (Romans 16:17)
 - 3. in properly evangelizing the world (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - 4. and more
- D. Fear shows itself in a number of ways like the following:
 - 1. doubt
 - 2. anger
 - 3. slothfulness
 - 4. blame
 - 5. etc.
- E. Christians do not have the spirit of fear (Romans 8:15).

VII. To Have Thick Skin

- A. Leaders will always be subject to second-guessing. Consider what the people did to Moses (Exodus 17:2).
- B. How can we handle the pressures of being a leader for God?
 - 1. Expect it to happen now and then.
 - 2. Remember the blessings of belonging to God.
 - 3. Carefully consider James 1:19, 20.
 - 4. Sometimes, we just have to take it and more on.
 - 5. Know that the Lord is with us, and He may be using us for His bigger-picture purpose.