

CiP - Servant Hearted Leadership in the Workplace

14 October, 10:30-11:30. Christian Concern, 70 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8AX

Introduction

Discussion: What makes a good leader?

- someone who other people follow (they perceive will give them a better way than current experience)
- Practice what they preach
- Have empathy with people they work with
- Have good personal and communication skills
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Which of these attributes are personal, physical or industry specific skills?

Jesus commission to his disciples was to be leaders - people that others would follow their example - and is found in Matthew 28:19-20. *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

No matter what job we do or profession we serve, as Christians our ultimate role is to be a disciple and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

4 things that differentiate a disciple a believer:

- Being a ***follower***, where God sets the agenda, Jesus is the example, Holy Spirit is our guide.
- Having an ***intimate relationship with God***, where our desires and ambitions merge with His as one

- ***Seeing the world*** and all those in it through His loving and merciful eyes that seeks to restore everyone into a loving relationship with the Father
- ***Acting as Jesus*** did, living our lives in His image, not imposing our wills, but reaching out in love, particularly to the margins of society such as the homeless, the sick, those in prison, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Because of this, the place where we work is our mission field. It's where God has appointed us to be 'Good News', to bring hope and comfort, no matter what title or role we have. Our focus is on building His kingdom and not our careers.

So with that in mind, what does it mean for a Christian to be a servant-hearted leader? How should it affect the everyday work we do in relation to those who report to us; those we report to; organisational values; and our own personal aspirations?

Fortunately the Bible is full of good examples for us to follow.

10:45 Discussion 1: The example of Daniel (Daniel 1, 2, 6) and Joseph (Genesis 39, 41)

Flip chart, 2 teams - one looking at Daniel, one looking at Joseph. Write bullet points on what made them good for the roles they played under the headings: as a servant, as a manager, to the organisation?

If you were a manager, why would you have him as a team member?

If you were a team member, why would you have him as your boss?

If you owned the company, why would you employ them for a senior role?

11:00 Review 1:

Both people were highly successful as a team member, a manager and to the organisation they served. The things they had in common were:

- Both were 'slaves' in a foreign land that didn't share their beliefs
- Both remembered who they were - God's disciples first and foremost
- Didn't complain about 'their lot'
- Open about their faith but didn't openly condemn their master
- Consistent in their approach and attitude
- Prepared to speak out irrespective of the personal cost
- Prayer changes things
- Faultless examples of servant hood both to those under them and those over them
- Served the master and the organisation (even though they were the enemy) - never undermined. Leaders not dictators
- Gentle approach without complaint, even if they were wronged (turn other cheek)
- Their faithfulness changed lives of those around them - even despot dictators!

As they were promoted, did they change the way they thought and acted?

How do these attributes line up with our discussion on what makes a good leader?

What hinders us from exhibiting the same attributes where we work?

11:15 Discussion 2:

Using Daniel and Joseph as examples:

- How should we act when something is contrary to God's word? (Steve example)
- How should we handle conflicts, particularly where we are being wronged?
- How as Managers should we serve our staff? by looking out for them, making them better, guiding, supporting, helping avoid pitfalls
- How should Managers serve their managers/directors?

11:25. Wrap up

Ephesians 4:1. "*Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*"

Our calling is as disciples. Every step we take is an adventure with God, being Jesus Christ to all we interact with. Our priority is to show the love of God - not to condemn.

Remember:

- Don't worry about your career or position in a company: Seek first the Kingdom of God - all these other things will be added ...
- We don't operate alone - HS working in lives and through other believers
- We don't always see the bigger picture that God has planned for us - we're to trust in the one who is our provider and loves us beyond our understanding
- When you leave your job, what do you want to be remembered for: A disciple of JC who impacted the organisation for good, or a religious zealot who got on everyone's nerves?