

## Leadership Principles from Matthew

### Clear Mission and Message? (Lay a Path)

There are few leaders more bold than John the Baptist ([Mat 3:1-10](#)). What helped John be as bold as he was? Consider the following:

- ▶ He was clear on his mission. He knew his purpose was to prepare people for the coming of the Lord.
- ▶ He was able to state his message clearly and succinctly, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" ([Mat 3:2](#)).

Are you clear on your purpose as a leader? Can you state your message clearly and succinctly?

<i>my purpose</i>	<i>my message</i>

### 3 Temptations of a Leader (Demonstrate Core Values)

Henry Nouwen (*In the Name of Jesus*) suggests that the three temptations Jesus faced ([Mat 4:1-11](#)) correspond to the temptations we face as leaders:

temptation to be self-sufficient	<a href="#">Mat 4:2-4</a>
temptation to be spectacular	<a href="#">Mat 4:5-7</a>
temptation to be powerful	<a href="#">Mat 4:8-10</a>

To which of these temptations are you most susceptible? How do you deal with them?

### Ultimate Challenge (Demonstrate Core Values)

Consider [Matthew 5:48](#) as an ultimate challenge. Being "perfect" means to be mature or complete in Christ. (This does not mean sinless, yet). What would it take for you to meet that ultimate challenge? In what areas are you lacking spiritual maturity?

## Who's in Charge, You or Your Money? (Demonstrate Core Values)

Study [Matthew 6:31-34](#) to see how an over-focus on money can ruin your ability to let Christ's light shine through you to others. How can it darken your eye and divide your heart ([Mat 6:22-24](#))?

## Judge Yourself First (Demonstrate Core Values)

Do you judge yourself before you judge others ([Mat 7:1-5](#))? Here are some reasons that is a good idea:

- ▶ It prepares you for the final judgment.
- ▶ It helps you keep things in perspective.
- ▶ It prepares you to better serve others (seeing your own problems gives you the insight to help others).

Think of ways you can be sure to judge yourself before judging others.

What do the following verses say about not judging compared to judging righteously?

<i>Judge Not</i>	<i>Judge Righteously</i>
<a href="#">Mat 7:1</a> <a href="#">Luke 6:37</a> <a href="#">Rom 14:13</a> <a href="#">Jas 4:11-12</a>	<a href="#">Mat 7:6</a> <a href="#">1Cor 6:2-5</a> <a href="#">1Cor 2:15</a> <a href="#">John 7:24</a>

## False Leaders (Demonstrate Core Values)

One of the pathways that can lead us away from Christ is false leaders. Some leaders claim to be Christians; however, they seek public praise, they crave material things, and they insist they have a right to judge others. These are indicators that they don't know Christ ([Mat 7:22-23](#)). What are you doing to be certain you directly build your life on Christ rather than lean entirely on a human leader?

## Cautious, Curious, or Committed? (Engage Others)

Jesus didn't beg others to follow Him. In fact, when the numbers grew large, He began to test for their level of commitment ([Mat 8:18-27](#)). John Maxwell says there are three types of followers, "the cautious, the curious, and the committed." To see where His followers stood:

- ▶ Jesus first clarified what it meant to follow Him including the necessary sacrifices ([Mat 8:18-22](#)).
- ▶ Next, He demonstrated good reasons for them to follow Him ([Mat 8:23-27](#)).

As a leader, have you determined the types of followers you have? Have you made it clear what it will take to be fully committed to the mission? Have you shown that there are good reasons to follow you?

## Develop a Vision (Lay a Path)

Do you have a vision? How did you arrive at the vision? Notice the development of a vision in [Matthew 9:35-38](#):

See a need	"He saw" ( <a href="#">Mat 9:36</a> )
Develop a burden	"moved with compassion" ( <a href="#">Mat 9:36</a> )
Recognize the cause	"laborers are few" ( <a href="#">Mat 9:37</a> )
Make a call to action	"therefore pray" ( <a href="#">Mat 9:38</a> )

To be a relevant leader, you must identify and meet real needs. Be observant. Let God give you a burden. Then seek His direction for a vision.

## Meekness is Not Weakness (Demonstrate Core Values)

**Meekness** is not weakness. It is power under **control** ([Mat 11:29](#)). What are some of the reasons that Christ was meek?

## Using Parables (Engage Others)

Take some tips for communicating a vision from the Master. Notice how Jesus used parables ([Mat 13](#)). Parable means to "cast alongside." A parable is a story or comparison put alongside something to make a message clear. To follow His communication example:

- ▶ **Simplify** the message. Focus on something familiar to your audience. Use comparisons or stories.
- ▶ **Know** the **needs** of your audience.
- ▶ **Watch** for moments when they are receptive to hearing.
- ▶ **Model** the truth. Live a life worthy of following.
- ▶ **Check** to be sure they understand.

## Teaching Moment (Engage Others)

One challenge a leader faces is being sure followers understand the intent of a communication ([Mat 16:5-12](#)). When the disciples misunderstood, Jesus used it as a teaching moment. He instructed them to remember what they had seen Him do rather than talk among themselves to guess the meaning. Do you provide teaching moments when there is a misunderstanding? Would it be possible for your followers to derive meaning from remembering what they have seen you do?

<i>Cause of Misunderstanding</i>	<i>Your Action</i>
They need further instruction.	Make it a teachable moment.
You have failed to set an example they can follow.	Clarify, then recommit to demonstrating worthy leadership behaviors.

## Time to Retreat (Demonstrate Core Values)

In the account of the Transfiguration [Mat 17:1-13], Jesus selected a private place. This pictures our need to withdraw from our regular activities to experience a transforming fellowship with God. When burdened with cares of the world, it is not possible to lift up our hearts and seek spiritual things. Leader, how often do you schedule times of retreat to be alone with God and His Word? Here are some of the reasons it is important to have regular times alone with God:

- ▶ It lets God know how important He is to you [Mat 6:33].
- ▶ It nourishes and refreshes you spiritually which brings you inner peace [Php 4:6-9 and Isa 26:3].
- ▶ It fills you so that you are able to pour yourself out for others [1Cor 10:23-24].

## Like a Child (Demonstrate Core Values)

To answer the disciples' question about who was the greatest, Jesus told them that to be greatest they must become as little children [Mat 18:1-4]. List the characteristics of children that picture humility:

- ▶ Psa 131:1
- ▶ 1Cor 14:20
- ▶ 1Pet 2:1-12

Consider to what degree you possess those characteristics.

## Why Be a Leader? (Demonstrate Core Values)

Why are you a leader? Is it because you like to exercise authority or because you desire to serve [Mat 20:25-28]? Certainly, in the world, there are more people who seek status than those who seek to serve. To gauge which group you are most like, examine how you pray. Are your prayers selfish and self-centered, asking for things to be your way? When you can honestly say, "Speak Lord, Your servant wants to do Your will," you will be the leader Our Lord desires.

## Standard of Righteousness (Demonstrate Core Values)

The Pharisees separated themselves from "unclean" Jews who did not practice the Law or who opposed the traditions they had established to govern their lives. Some Pharisees were sincere; however, most used their religion to gain status or wealth. Jesus described the basic flaws of their religion in Matthew 23:1-12.

<i>Pharisees</i>	<i>Believers</i>
Appointed themselves to determine what was righteous	Obey God's Word
Quick to tell others what to do, but didn't hold themselves accountable	Hold themselves accountable to God
Sought praises of men, status, and authority	Seek God's approval, direct others to Christ

Leader, what is the source of your standard of righteousness?  
To whom do you hold yourself accountable? Whose approval do you seek?

## A Plan Brings Power (Achieve Results)

Consider the parable of the 10 maidens [Mat 25:1-13]. If you knew Christ was coming for you tomorrow, what would you do today to prepare to meet Him [Mat 24:44]? John Maxwell says, "The man with the plan is the man with the power." In both the long-term and in daily living there is power in preparedness. As a leader, do you have a plan? If you have a plan, what steps are you taking to implement the plan? In what ways have you incorporated preparedness into your plan?

## Under Pressure? (Demonstrate Core Values)

As a Roman governor, Pilate had pledged to uphold the law. As a politician, he knew he must keep the people reasonably happy to avoid a riot. Pilate found no fault with Jesus, but could not find a way to get the people to listen to reason [Mat 27:11-26]. The religious leaders knew how to make Pilate fearful by suggesting that, if he let Jesus go, then he was not a friend of Caesar's. Pilate yielded to the pressure.

Think about times when you have been under pressure to do the wrong thing. How did you react? What can you do in the future to yield to Christ rather than yielding to the world?

## Teach Them (Engage Others)

If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, He asks you to make disciples and to teach them [Mat 28:18-20]. Are you fulfilling this responsibility?

<i>Make Disciples</i>	<i>Teach Them</i>
<p>Do you live your life according to His Word? Those who see Christ in you may ask questions giving you an opportunity to humbly share your faith in Christ. Do you watch for those opportunities and respond to them?</p>	<p>He may not call you to stand in front of a group to teach; however, He does ask you to share what He teaches you with others. Do you talk to others about what He teaches you? When those around you are struggling, do you share Bible verses that comfort you?</p>