



# Essentials for a Healthy Church: *Spiritual Leadership*

May 19, 2019

Leadership as Service

**OPENER:** *Go around the room and name some of the most prominent leaders of the last 100 years & discuss what made them great. (You get to be the judge of what defines 'great'.)*

History is filled with 'great' leaders... men and women, who have significantly led groups, people and nations in powerful ways. But, what defines 'greatness'? How are today's leaders to lead given the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? What qualities and characteristics make a leader great? What can we learn from Jesus on leadership that might help us... and especially with church leadership?

**DIG: READ MATTHEW 20:25-28; JOHN 13:1-17;**

- In Matt 20:25-28, Jesus contrasts the 'leadership style' of the Jewish & Roman Leaders with the way it ought to be in the kingdom of God. Discuss the major differences you see...
- How did Jesus embody this, very different, leadership approach?
- Discuss the conversation between Jesus and the mother of James & John which prompted this. What had been asked of Jesus and how did He respond?
- In Jn 13, what does Jesus 'know' that the disciples do not at this point? (vss. 1, 3, 11)
- What was it that made Peter uncomfortable with Jesus' public display of service here? How do you think you would have felt?
- What was unusual about Jesus' actions here?
- Why do you think Jesus performed this unusual act of service at this time?
- What character traits allowed Jesus to do what He did on this occasion? Where do we see these traits today?

## **Discuss:**

- Discuss the difference in attitude between Jesus' example here and the examples typically seen among 'leaders' today?
- Can you think of the greatest act of service that someone has ever done for you? How did it make you feel? Who was it?
- Some people make it hard for people to serve them (like Peter). What would you say to someone who never likes for anyone to do anything for them that might change their mind?
- Part of what Jesus was doing for these disciples, above simply serving them, was teaching them HOW to serve others and to lead in that way. What can we as a church do to intentionally train up future leaders to lead in the leadership style of Jesus? Ideas?
- Do you understand what Jesus did for the disciples? What He has done for you? How can you 'do as He has done for you?'
- What is one thing you can do this week to follow Jesus' example here of service?

## **PRAY**

*What does this church need to be in prayer about tonight? Among those things... please keep in mind all of the spiritual leaders in our church family.*

- Elders
- Deacons
- Ministers
- Bible class teachers
- Youth group mentors
- Fathers
- Mothers
- Small group leaders
- & others