



LEAD FROM YOUR KNEES

John 13:1-17; 1 Peter 5:1-7

1

A Good Leader needs Knee Pads

- Peter learned a valuable lesson about leadership from Jesus at the last supper (Jn 13:1-17). **True leadership begins on your knees...** from a position of humility and servitude.
- The new golden rule: **"Do unto others as Jesus has done unto you."**
- In **1 Peter 5:1-7**, Peter turns his attention to the church leaders to help us understand that humility and servitude is the mark of a good leader.

2

1. True leaders are on their knees in humility

- Leadership in the church is different from the world. God wants humble leaders (Pr 3:23).
- Peter uses three terms to distinguish church leaders from the world:
 - (a) **ELDER**- (presbyteros) practical function (1 Tm 3:1-7; Tt 1:6-9).
 - (b) **SHEPHERD**- (poimen) pastoral function = feed, nurture, protect.
 - (c) **OVERSEER**- (episkopos) personal function = attention and caregiving to the individuals of the body.
- Elders are humble spiritual leaders. An elder does not look for the praises of men rather he leads in the background.
- True leadership greatness is having the humility to do whatever needs to be done regardless of how mundane, menial, or deplorable the job maybe.

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2. True leaders are on their knees in prayer

- The care and oversight ministry of the elders has to start with prayer (Ja 5:14-15).
- The main aspects of church leadership is the ministry of the word and prayer (Ac 6:1-6; 1 Sa 12:23).
- Elders should pray for:
 - (a) **HUMILITY** (1 Pe 5:6-7).
 - (b) **WISDOM** (James 1:5).
 - (c) **COMPASSION** (Ep 4:32).
 - (d) Your **FELLOW ELDERS**. (Mt 18:19).
 - (e) The **PREACHER** and the **DEACONS** (Ep 6:18-19).
 - (f) The **MEMBERS** of the church by **NAME** (1 Ti 2:10).
 - (g) The **SICK** and those with special needs. (Ja 5:16)
 - (h) The **WORK** (Ro 15:30).
- True leadership greatness is taking the time to pray earnestly for those in your care.

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3. True leaders are on their knees in servitude

- Jesus is very clear that Christian leaders are servant leaders (Mk 9:35; Lk 22:25-26)
- There are 5 marks of the servant leader:
 - (a) A servant leader seeks to bring **GLORY** to his master (Jn 7:18; Ep 6:6; Ps 15:4).
 - (b) A servant leader **SACRIFICIALLY** seeks the highest joy of those he serves (Mt 20:26, 28; Ph 1:25; 2:3,4, 9-11).
 - (c) A servant leader will forgo his **RIGHTS** rather than obscure the gospel (1 Co 9:19).
 - (d) A servant leader is not preoccupied with personal **VISIBILITY** and **RECOGNITION** (1 Co 12:12-26; Jn 3:27).
 - (e) A servant leader anticipates and graciously accepts the time for his **DECREASE** (John 3:29-30).
- True leadership greatness is understanding you are a servant of God.

5

Exchanging kneepads for a crown of glory

- Those who lead humbly as a good example for others receive a crown of glory from Jesus, the chief shepherd.
- The key to righteous living is submission and humility. This applies to all of us.
- Will you submit and humble yourself before the Lord today?

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