

Session Study #2 — Christlike in Character

Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

- **Christian leaders are at their very best when they are Christlike in their character. And I believe one of, if not THE, greatest characteristic of Jesus that leaders should emulate is his humility.**
 - **"In his work with organizations around the world, Simon Sinek noticed that some teams trust each other so deeply that they would literally put their lives on the line for each other. Other teams, no matter what incentives are offered, are doomed to infighting, fragmentation and failure. Why? The answer became clear during a conversation with a Marine Corps general. "Officers eat last," he said. Simon watched as the most junior Marines ate first while the most senior Marines took their place at the back of the line. What's symbolic in the chow hall is deadly serious on the battlefield: Great leaders sacrifice their own comfort—even their own survival—for the good of those in their care." — a brief description of the book *Leaders Eat Last* by Simon Sinek**
- **The Humility of Jesus**
 - "Leaders/officers eat last" is a great motto for Christian leaders in the local church because it perfectly describes the kind of self-sacrificial, humble leadership that Jesus exhibited on earth.
 - ◆ ***Philippians 2:3-8, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!"***
- **Growing In Humility**
 - But how can we grow to be more humble? To be more like Jesus? By spending time with him.
 - ◆ ***"Humility is not a character trait to develop, it's the natural by-product of being with Jesus." — Louie Giglio***
 - When we do, at least four things will happen that will increase our humility:
 - ◆ First, by being a good follower of Jesus one will become a great leader of others. Being a good follower means you are submitted to the Lordship of Christ. Without the Lordship of Jesus in the leader's life, leaders will simply pursue the less-than-best desires of their heart.

But, when Christian leaders have learned to submit themselves to Jesus, to follow him even when it means sacrificing their own desires, they will find that they are actually chasing after the very best for those they lead because Jesus will only ask them to lead in the direction of the very best.

- ◆ Second, they grow in humility because they are spending time with the most humble human who ever walked the face of the earth. Jesus begins to rub off on them, increasing their capacity to be humble. We read about the humility of Jesus throughout the New Testament:
 - ◆ Jesus washes the disciples feet (John 13)
 - ◆ Jesus left heaven to come down to earth, not as a royalty, but to a seemingly very average couple in Mary and Joseph (John 1:14; Luke 1:26-33).
 - ◆ Most of all, Jesus gave up his life for us (Mark 10:45).
 - ◆ Third, while looking at their perfect Savior, leaders recognize how imperfect they are and so, once again, their humility grows as they come across their own shortcomings and sins and confess them to others (James 5:16).
 - ◆ But, fourth, they are continually reminded of the grace of God shown to them through Jesus Christ! Therefore their humility does not devolve into a brittle kind of low self-esteem. They rightly see their faults, they know they are loved, and they know that God has positioned them for greater impact as a leader which can only be done in His strength (1 Corinthians 15:10).
- **Benefits of Humble Leadership**
 - You maybe thinking, "Yeah, but why is humility so important? How can humility actually improve our leadership?"
 - ◆ GREATER JOY — Those one leads will enjoy their leadership because they don't have to worry that their leader is self-absorbed, looking out for their own interests, trying to step on them to get ahead. They can relax and enjoy following a humble leader.
 - ◆ FASTER IMPROVEMENT — Leaders who can admit it when they are wrong will also be able to correct faster than those whose pride disable such honest self-reflection.
 - ◆ BETTER DECISION MAKING — Because they are humble they don't have to feel like they are the smartest person in the room, the answer-man/woman, and so they are free to seek the input and wisdom of others. Therefore, they will, in the end, make better decisions.
 - ◆ HIGHER INTEGRITY — Proud leaders do not have enough humility to make decisions based on Biblical integrity. Rather, they shrink back from hard decisions that might inconvenience them or make them feel uncomfortable. But, a humble leader knows that it is not about them; their leadership is about the glory of God and the good of others.

Their humility positions them to make make hard decisions that others may not like and/or that may go against the leader's own wishes/ desires. Their integrity is not sold to the highest bidder who complains or threatens and it is not torpedoed by their own desire for comfort. It's rock solid.

- ◆ LESS REACTIVE IN THE FACE OF CRITICISM — Leaders who are humble can receive critical feedback, even if it is/seems unfair. Though they may disagree with 99% of it, they can use the 1% they believe is true and make adjustments.
- ◆ POSITIVE INFLUENCE — Leaders who are humble make sacrifices for the many, rather than asking the many to sacrifice for him/her. Done consistently, this builds credibility with the team and rubs off on them. Humble leaders will produce followers who mirror their leadership through sacrificial service.
- ◆ MORE TRUST — All leaders answer to someone. Leaders who humbly follow those above them will be totally trusted and will, therefore, be given more responsibility and the benefit of the doubt.

- **Review**

- Don't forget, it's not too late to sign up for the Leadership Training on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC Fellowship Hall. Simply email me at church@fbckenedy.org.
- Also, you can watch last week's study and get notes from both Wednesday and Sunday, at www.fbckenedy.org/lead.