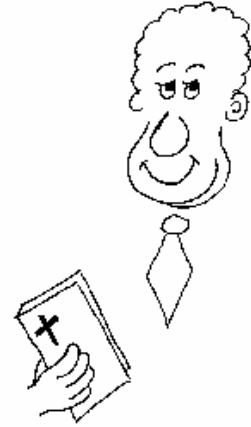


1. Attitudes of a Leader

(Prideful, Selfish Thief or Selfless Servant?)



Each one of us is uniquely made with different God-given gifts and abilities. These gifts and abilities enable us to fulfill our purposes as leaders. There are countless ways any of us can define our purpose (which is our reason for having been given gifts and abilities). **There is one definition of purpose that is universal to all leaders. Every one who is called to be a leader is purposefully called to lead God's sheep.**



How you answer the call, and how you function in your calling, will be determined by your attitude about leading God's sheep. In this first session, we look at the first three of many Leadership Principles. **Principles are reflected in attitudes and attitudes determine actions.** People listen more carefully to your actions than they do to your words. Actions do not lie. They are always more transparent than the words we speak.

Jesus' Attitude: A Leader - A Role Model for Leaders

(John 10:10 NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Contrast in Attitudes: Thief (Selfishness) or Leader (Selflessness)	
Thief (A Selfish Heart)	Leader (A Selfless Heart)
Comes to kill.	Comes to provide life in all its fullness.
Comes to take.	Comes to give.
Comes to do violence to the sheep.	Comes to save the sheep from violence.
Comes to devour the sheep.	Comes to feed the sheep.

There is no middle ground. The difference is clearly defined. You cannot be one and the other at the same time. They are totally different roles. The motivation of the thief is distinctly opposite the motivation of the Leader/leader.

(John 10:2-3a NKJV) "But he who enters by the door is the Leader of the sheep. {3} To him the doorkeeper opens..."

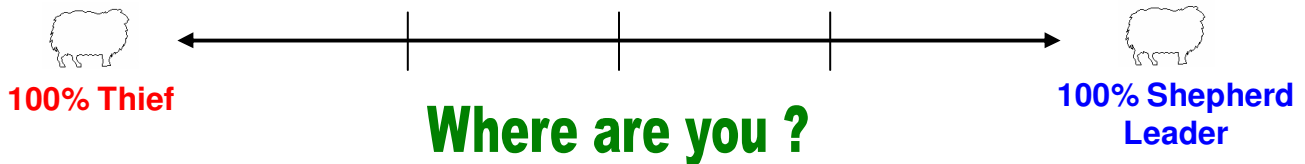
A true Leader/Shepherd walks publicly and properly. The thief sneaks in unnoticed. His secret purpose is to ambush, to raid, to do violence, to kill, steal and destroy.



Ask yourself:

Am I 100% Leader, 0% thief?

Leadership Scale



Only Jesus was perfect – 100% Shepherd.
We can all improve and move to the right. → → →

Attitude of a Leader - Always to be open to Inspection

People are watching. God is watching too. Therefore, a leader ought to be concerned about being a totally transparent person. It has been said: "What you see is what you get." Nothing ought to be hidden or deceptive in a leader's actions. In the end, deceptive people who lead will find they have fooled themselves.

Leader and Those Led - Always to be in Relationship

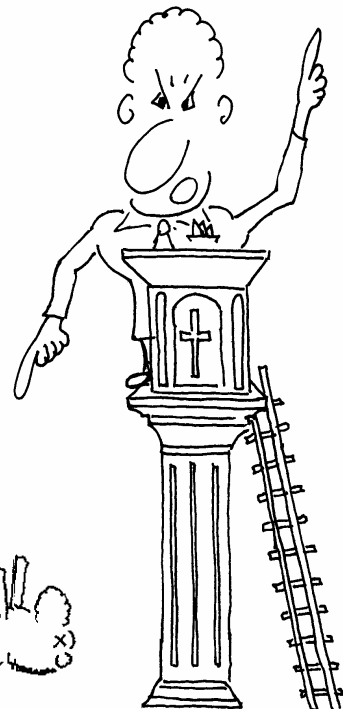
People respond willingly and go where the leader leads them. They are obedient to the leader's voice for the long run, because they have a loving and trusting relationship with him or her. Intimidation and manipulation may force obedience for a while, but not for the long haul.

(John 10:3b, 4 NKJV) "...and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. {4} And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

The thief neither has, nor wants a relationship with those he is trying to take advantage of. **He is not looking for voluntary obedience but he seeks an opportunity for subjection and dominance.** A leader who tries to lead for the wrong reasons or with the wrong methods will one day empty his group. People eventually recognize the motivation and flee. Unfortunately, it is often too late and great damage is done.

Ask yourself:

- 🗞 Am I, even in the smallest ways, afraid of relationships?
- 1. Is there a reluctance to expose the real me ... to be transparent and available... to be vulnerable to the close inspection of the people I lead?
- 2. Do I build walls between myself and those I have authority over?





✍️ *Have I hidden behind the respect given my place, and do I elevate myself into a position where the people cannot get close enough to touch me? In other words, do I actually substitute the idea of “respect” for its real meaning – “pride” and self-exaltation?”*

Note: Genuine respect is given, not demanded.

People follow the leader because they know his/her life and voice are reflections of truth, transparency and tenderness. He/she is trustworthy and teachable. Your long-term leadership success depends on how those who follow you see you. If you limit your relationships with them, they will see you as distant from them.

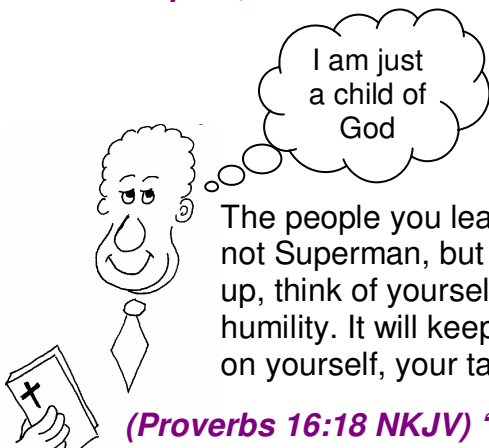
Leadership Principle #1.

**People will follow at a distance for only a season.
Close relationships are lasting and fruitful forever.**

David’s Secret Weapon

David was a prepared and practiced leader. He was able to kill his lion and bear. He also knew how to feed his sheep, guiding them to healthy green pastures so they could graze in peace. He had an additional leadership advantage that made him an excellent leader. He had a secret weapon, and it was not his sling and 5 smooth stones!

(1 Samuel 17:46-47 NKJV) “This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. {47} Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”



God says: *“Leader, do what you know to do to be a good Leader and when the battle comes, just stand still and see My hand move! You will never have to defend yourself. I will be there for you!”*

The people you lead will often look at you as some kind of Superman. You are not Superman, but just a normal human being. When the battle begins to heat up, think of yourself as God’s child. This attitude translates into a safety net of humility. It will keep you safe from your own ego and pride, or any dependence on yourself, your talents and experience. Instead, depend on God.

(Proverbs 16:18 NKJV) “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Ask yourself:

- ✂ How do I normally face my daily battles -- In my strength or in God's hands?
1. What is the difference between my strength and God's strength?
 2. What is my advantage to totally relying on God's strength?

(2 Corinthians 12:10 NKJV) "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

- ✂ What kind of image do I present to people – A tower of my own strength, or a person who understands the strength of The High Tower, the Lord Jesus Christ?

(Psalm 144:1-2 NKJV) "Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle; {2} My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me."

Leadership Principle #2

Never forget that you are simply a child of God, Especially when the people you leader think you are more.

(Remember, "The battle is the Lords.")

Leader's Job Description - Abundant Life Delivery Boy or Girl

(John 10:10 NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

We started our study with this Scripture. Let us come back to it to wrap things up. Jesus came to deliver abundant life through His shed blood. He has done so. Jesus declared it Himself when He said, *"It is finished."* (John 19:30)

You are part of the divine distribution network Jesus set up through His church. You work for the Master's Delivery Service. You are one of His abundant life delivery boys or girls. You are His child, delivering His goods. Do you think of yourself as a servant who simply delivers the goods? This kind of attitude works for every leader. It worked for David. It will work for you!

(1 Sam 17:17-18 NKJV) "Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. {18} And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

The delivery boy killed the giant! As a leader, it is your high honor and privilege to be God's abundant-life delivery boy. You are blessed! You get to kill giants!

Leadership Principle #3.

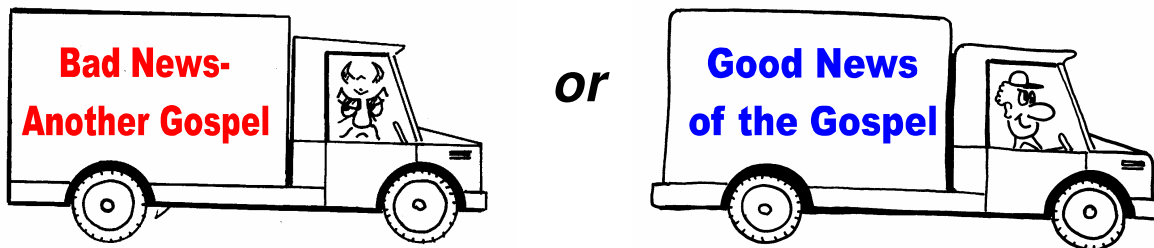
It's the delivery boys and girls who kill the giants.

(The king and all the others stand in fear and watch.)

When the day is finished, the deliveries are done, the giants are taken down to size ... there is always more than enough left over for you. In fact, there will be more than you can measure. Because of your faithfulness, God will give you a divine vision of Him in all His fullness. He will say, *"Well done, faithful Leader. Enter into your rest."*

Review – Leader Principles

- #1. People will follow at a distance for only a season. Close relationships are lasting and fruitful forever. Reach out to your people and be part of them.**
- #2. Never forget that you are simply a child of God, even when the people think you are more. The battle is the Lord's.**
- #3. It is delivery boys and girls who kill the giants.**



Think about it!

Lord Jesus, we bless you and praise you for your Word, Amen