

Following Jesus
30, Competition in the kingdom?
Mark 10:35-45

- I. 5 Leadership fallacies of aspiring leaders
- a. **Aspiring leaders sometimes think they have more authority than they do**
 - i. “35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.”
 - ii. They thought they could tell Jesus what to do!
 - iii. How easy it is for us to forget who the Master is!
 - 1. This point convicts me in the way that I pray
 - 2. “Lord, I want you to do whatever I ask, OK?”
 - a. Who has final authority in the church?
 - b. Jesus – He is the important one – **Colossians 1:18**
 - b. **Aspiring leaders sometimes have misplaced ambitions**
 - i. “36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? 37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.”
 - ii. This was all about them, not Jesus
 - 1. Not the attitude of John the Baptist: “He must increase, I must decrease”
 - 2. Their attitude was: “As you increase, make sure we do too!”
 - 3. Political manipulation to advance in the eyes of others
 - a. **Philippians 2:21 “For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.”**
 - b. Paul’s attitude was the opposite
 - c. **Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ...”**
 - d. I have goals, but they are not about my importance
 - e. **Philippians 3:13-14**
 - c. **Aspiring leaders sometimes give themselves too much credit**
 - i. “38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? 39 And they said unto him, We can.”
 - ii. They were a little bit big for their britches
 - 1. This happens SO much in Christianity
 - 2. The Christian world is a small world
 - 3. It’s kind of easy to think you are a pretty big fish in a little pond
 - 4. Thinking we are special because of something we have done

d. Aspiring leaders sometimes think that they need to push others down to go up

- i. “41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.”
- ii. This became a competition with the other disciples
- iii. Leadership is not a competition against others

e. Aspiring leaders sometimes try to lead by force

- i. Physical force – The world leads by lordship
 1. “42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them...”
 2. Lordship – dominate or subdue using physical strength
- ii. Verbal or intellectual force – The world leads by authority
 1. “42...and their great ones exercise authority upon them.”
 2. Authority – Command others verbally
 3. Telling others what to do
 4. Fallacy: the loudest person is more important or the more confident someone is, the more the correct they are: FALSE!

II. 3 Counterintuitive leadership lessons from the Master Leader

a. Great Christians leaders quietly serve others

- i. “43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:”
 1. Diakonos – servant, waiter
 2. Bring the food to the table
 3. Aspiring leaders in the church need to find a way to serve

b. Effective Christian leaders enslave themselves to all

- i. 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.”
- ii. Doulos – bondsman, selling life, disregard for self
- iii. Fully yielding my will to others, my desire to others, my time to others, my comfort to others
- iv. Ultimately, to the Master
 1. This is such a beautiful rarity in the world today
 2. But you see it in EVERY healthy church
 3. People who have completely abandoned selfish ambition

c. Sincere Christian leaders follow the example of Christ

- i. “45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
- ii. Example of Jesus in Philippians 2:1-11 “Let this mind be in you.”

III. Conclusion

- a. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is thinking of yourself less."
 - i. A lot of people think a great deal about how humble they are
 - ii. Or more accurately, how humble other people perceive that they are
- b. Truly humble people don't think of themselves at all, they just serve
 - i. Many Christians work very hard to keep up the impression to other people that they are a gift to the church
 - ii. But many Christians don't SERVE!

IV. Applications

- a. Are you guilty of using church-life for personal promotion, reputation-building or self-advancement?
- b. Are you trying to find eternal significance in showy or histrionic performances rather than self-effacing service?