

The Story of Jethro
July 23, 2023

1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV – Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

What defines a leader? _____

Who was Jethro?

Main Passage: Exodus 18:1,7-27, NIV

Three Principles of Great Leadership

1. Great leaders are first _____

Matthew 4:19a, NIV – “Come and follow me,” Jesus said.

Philippians 2:6-8, NIV – [Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

James 4:6, NIV – But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

2. Great leaders lead people to _____

Exodus 18:19, NCV – Now listen to me, and I will give you some advice. I want God to be with you. You must speak to God for the people and tell him about their disagreements.

Galatians 6:2, NIV – Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Peter 5:7, NLT – Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Psalms 55:22, CEV – Our Lord, we belong to you. We tell you what worries us, and you won't let us fall.

James 1:5, NIV – If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

3. Great leaders value _____

Exodus 18:21a, NLT – But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes.

Jeremiah 17:10, NIV – I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.

Matthew 7:17-20 (NLT – [Jesus said,] “A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.”

Reflection:

If a basic building block of leadership is influence, then with whom do I have influence?

Where am I leading those with whom I have influence?

Am I first a great follower of Jesus before trying to be a great leader? Who am I following? Are they worthy of leading me? Am I following them to a place I want to be? If not, why am I following them?

Am I praying for those with whom I have influence? Or am I trying to bear their burdens alone without God's help and wisdom? Am I leading them to God first before anywhere else?

Jethro and Jesus both valued character over competence, integrity over image, righteousness over resume. When searching for people to lead my family members, business, or church, am I valuing what God's Word says is most important in a leader?