

A Leader Sees Further Down The Road

But invites others to walk alongside

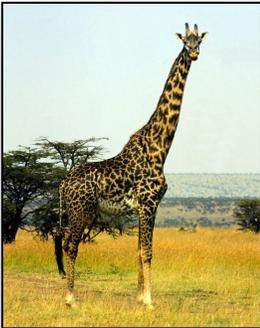
Steve Alley

Jesus was a master at not being a “master”! When He was here, on earth, He “took on the form of a servant” (Phil. 2: 7), and led His disciples “from inside,” rather than from “outside.” He invested time with them in “remote places” (Mark 8: 1-13), outside the temple (Mark 12: 42, 43), in the wheat fields (Mark 2: 23-27), and on hikes (Mark 9: 2-13). He used everyday occurrences as “teachable moments” to teach His disciples about life, people, themselves, and God. He very seldom told His disciples what to do; but when it was needed, He did.

As ministry leaders, we must utilize the same leadership style as Jesus modeled. We must lead “from within” the team, rather than rising to the top and leading from the “outside.”

It was said of Jesus that He taught people “as one having authority, and not as their Scribes” (Mt. 7:29). This means that Jesus “earned” authority, through sacrifice, gentleness and humility, rather than demanding obedience and power as the Scribes did. This “peek” into Jesus’ very successful leadership style cannot be ignored! There are many examples of corporate “bosses” who “get things done,” but who are hated by their employees! Jesus’ leadership style changed a world forever!

A leader “sees further down the road.” This is an essential characteristic of an effective leader! He/she must “see” things before they actually happen. He/she must understand the effects of the current conditions, and work hard to bring about the needed changes before trouble comes!



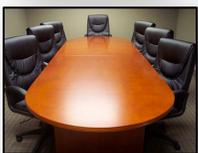
“Seeing further down the road” doesn’t mean that a leader ignores those who don’t “see,” or “walks over” those who “get in his/her way.” The most important role of a leader is to attract others to follow! This can only be done by earning “authority” through listening, explaining, supporting, nurturing, training, and when needed, advising.

The most important words a leader can say to those under or around him/her are, **“What do you think?”** These words throw open the doors for collaboration and discussion! They build a leadership team. They build a ministry! Conversely, the words, “I think” can be dangerous if nobody’s opinion is asked. Granted, there are times when those words are necessary, but if they are the only words a leader says, it can be destructive.

There are **two perspectives** that a leader can have regarding those “under” him/her:



The leader with a **“throne perspective”** says, “I am the king, and those under me have to knuckle under and obey me!” This perspective produces rebellion! Those “under” the king may appear to obey; but they do so begrudgingly. When they find a “way out,” they will leave!



The leader with a **“board room perspective”** says, “I know I have to make a decision, but I value the wisdom and guidance of those who serve alongside me.” This perspective produces a strong team! This perspective earns respect from others, and it builds a staff that “stays on” for many, many years!

Ask God to help you develop the leadership style of Jesus!