



Servanthood— A True Test of Leadership

by Joey Ellis

One of the great paradoxes of leadership is to lead by serving. Those two terms do not seem to fit together. Typically, when we think of leading others, we picture being out in front, steering, giving vision, planning, and strategizing. Sometimes we think of serving as a second-rate job given to someone who could not handle leadership. However, Jesus marvelously displayed for us the ultimate example of servant leadership—He led by serving.

Jesus



"I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38)

Many times we have sung the chorus that says, "Where He leads me I will follow." But do we really wholeheartedly mean it? If God told us to change locations to a situation we knew would pay us less and work us harder, would we do it? Jesus did. Moses did. Paul did. Will we follow and serve Jesus regardless of the situation?

Your Spouse and Kids



"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

If we serve the ministry to the extent that we lose our families, we lose. Part of true success in life is to have those who know you the best love you most. We need to serve our spouses and children on a continual basis and put their needs above the needs of the ministry. Our attitude should be, "My goal in life is to help make your life all it can be."



The Leadership Over Us



"David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers." (1 Samuel 16:21)

As associates to our pastors,

volunteering or compensated, we exist to help fulfill the dreams and visions God has placed in them. We need to verbalize our commitment to our leadership. Set up an appointment with your pastor. Tell him you are committed to helping him fulfill the dream God has given him. When he needs someone to help pull off a project, he needs to automatically think of you. When things arise that need attention, he should think of you. Have the spirit of Jonathan's armorbearer, "Do all that you have in mind... Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul" (1 Samuel 14:7).

Our Ministry



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

If we take a look at the life of Jesus, we see that everything He did was in service to others. He purposefully set out not to fulfill His own wishes and dreams but to fulfill the plan of the one who sent Him. As we serve with His mission as our goal, Jesus accomplishes His

